

**FOUL PLAY  
HELL-RAISING  
FOOTBALLERS**

NEWS, PAGE 11

**WIPE OUT  
COULD AIDS MAKE  
ESKIMOS EXTINCT?**

FOREIGN, PAGE 18

**KILLER AT LARGE  
FACE TO FACE WITH  
CANADA'S WHALES**

TIME OFF, PAGE 3

# THE INDEPENDENT

Saturday 6 June 1998 70p (IR70p) No 3,630

## Blair faces revolt over student fees

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

**REBEL** Labour MPs are being told by government whips to stay in their constituencies next week to head off a revolt over the Government's controversial plans to impose tuition fees and abolish maintenance grants which could leave students £10,000 in debt.

Some of the 35 Labour MPs who have tabled an amendment to the Teaching and Higher Education Bill opposing tu-

ition fees and ending student grants have been offered "constituency leave" by the whips, but have turned it down.

Alan Simpson, a leading member of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs, said: "I have written back to the whips saying I have no intention of taking up their offer because I intend to vote in favour of retaining the basic student maintenance grant."

However, another opponent of David Blunkett's Bill said yesterday he had been given "con-

stituency leave" and would not be voting against the Government. Gerry Steinberg, the Labour MP for Durham City, said he was opposed to the Bill but would be meeting councillors on Monday to discuss a residents' parking scheme, rather than travelling to London.

John Cryer, another rebel, said on BBC radio that most of the MPs opposing the Government would be abstaining. The rebellion will not be on the scale of the revolt against the lone-parent benefits, when 47 voted

against the Government and about 50 abstained, but it will be the first outward sign of growing unrest at what some MPs claim is government by diktat.

The rebels include Dennis Skinner, the veteran left-winger who is standing for the elections to the party's ruling national executive (NEC) with the support of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and, ironically, Mr Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Skinner said: "I had no intention of standing until the

whips decided to produce their Soviet-style official list. I am standing not just against conformity, but because it is important to say to people that we are still a broad church, we have a political and industrial wing."

However, the rebels yesterday claimed the unrest went across the backbench and was not confined to the "usual suspects" on the left wing. It included a number of the new intake, such as Teresa Kingham, MP for Gloucester and a former charity official.

The whips are keeping the numbers on constituency leave a closely guarded secret but one ministerial aide put the number at between 40 and 50 MPs.

Mr Steinberg said: "I am not voting against it ... but I certainly can't support it and I am on a constituency week. I was given it a month ago, and I think it is a coincidence."

Constituency leave is being used by the whips to manage Tony Blair's massive majority in the Commons. It forces MPs to get away from Westminster and

keep up their support in constituencies. But it also helps to reduce plotting during the dog days of the summer, traditionally a difficult time for governments.

The revolt over student fees will coincide with the publication of nominations for the MPs' seats on the NEC. The whips infuriated backbenchers by nominating three MPs, including Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party. It is expected they will get massive support, but that was dismissed as a "conscript army" by one MP.

With tempers rising last week at the regular meeting of the PLP, Mr Prescott intervened to ensure that there would be a secret ballot. That eased fears of retaliation by the whips against those who refuse to toe the leadership line, but there is continuing anger at changes to the selection procedures for MPs, as reported yesterday in *The Independent*, which left-wingers believe will be used to get rid of them before the next election.

Leading article, page 22

## Fayed insults Diana's mother

By John Lichfield  
in Paris

**MOHAMED AL Fayed** insulted the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, outside a courtroom in Paris yesterday, telling journalists that she was an "English snob".

The multi-millionaire owner of Harrods said that Frances Shand Kydd, Diana's mother, had refused to talk to "a working-class guy" like him.

Mr Al Fayed and Mrs Shand Kydd were in Paris as observers at a meeting called by the judge investigating the road accident that killed Diana and her companion, Mr Fayed's son Dodi, in Paris last August.

"People like her are on another planet," Mr Al Fayed said. "She's a snob. It's English snobbery... If she thinks she is a member of the Royal Family and should have nothing to do with ordinary people like me, it's up to her. I'm just a working-class guy."

His outburst came during a break in a "general confrontation" at the Palais de Justice in Paris between 10 eyewitnesses to the crash, nine press photographers and one despatch rider arrested at the scene. The 10 face possible charges of manslaughter and reckless behaviour.

Earlier, Mr Al Fayed had praised the hearing and the "excellent" investigating judge, Hervé Stéphan. When he emerged during the afternoon, he said the meeting was going nowhere. He said the photographers were "vultures" who were mostly responsible for the crash. If he was not in a courtroom, he would "hang them all".

Members of Diana's family have been upset by previous remarks made by Mr Al Fayed, in which he claimed that her dying words were passed to him by a nurse at the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris. French medical authorities said the story was impossible: Diana was unable to speak by the time she reached the hospital. Earlier this week, Mr Al Fayed told an ITV documentary that he had spoken to Diana by telephone on the night of her death; he said that Diana had told him that she and Dodi planned to announce their engagement the following week.

Fayed fury, page 3  
Leading article, page 22



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A training run on Epsom Downs yesterday, ahead of today's Derby which sees Cape Verdi attempt to become the first filly to win since 1916. Race guide in Sport, Time Off, pages 14-15

Photograph: Kieran Doherty

## Era ends as Dounreay closes

By Charles Arthur  
and Colin Brown

**A NUCLEAR** era finally came to an end yesterday. The Government announced that Dounreay, the first station to generate electricity from nuclear power, will carry out no more active work and will be decommissioned.

The announcement sparked intense political infighting both between and within the parties, with Labour MPs from coalfield constituencies planning to argue for more pits to be reviewed as an alternative energy source.

But for the 1,400 workers at the plant, and the people in nearby Thurso who depend on it, the impact is minimal. It will take until 2005 to dismantle the plant safely, and doing that will provide employment for hundreds of people for decades.

Yesterday's announcement by Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, was hailed as a victory by anti-nuclear groups and seen by Labour MPs as a desperate attempt to staunch the haemorrhage of support to the Scottish National Party, which has led a vocal campaign for Dounreay's closure.

Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP which is threatening to overtake Labour in the elections for the Scottish Parliament, poured scorn on the Government's U-turn over the site, which the ministers recently described as being one of the safest in the world. John Redwood, Tory spokesman on trade and industry, criticised the Government's stand as a "shambles".

Ministers denied the timing was connected with the disclosure earlier this week that up to



The dream lives on, page 12

170kg of weapons-grade uranium - enough to make 12 atomic bombs - was unaccounted for from the 1960s. Instead John McKeown, director of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, insisted that he had recommended the closure in March.

But Labour backbenchers saw it as an attempt to halt the rise of the SNP. "People are saying it's the only way to stop us sinking further against the SNP," said one Labour MP.

Anti-nuclear campaigners said the decision vindicated their years of campaigning against the safety of the plant, located on the far north coast of Scotland. But Downing Street said the decision was based on economic grounds.

Mr Dewar emphasised that the announcement will not affect jobs in the area for at least a generation. Even after the reprocessing of fuel is complete, in the next few years, the decommissioning of all the buildings on site - some of which are highly radioactive internally - will take another 100 years.

The Dounreay project was started in 1953, aiming to de-

velop British expertise making commercial nuclear reactors. It relied on a technology called the "fast-breeder reactor", which generated its own fuel. But problems were found with the cooling system, which relied on liquid sodium metal, and the expense meant the fast-breeder reactor was never economic.

The Tory government announced the end of the fast reactor programme in 1988. The reactor was shutdown in 1993. Reprocessing carried on until 1996 when the last commercial shipment arrived from Australia. That reprocessing will be completed in 2006.

Lorraine Mann, of the pressure group Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, said: "The truth about what was done there must come out."

Experiment ends, page 12

## Couple kidnapped own daughter

By Glenda Cooper

**AN ASIAN** couple who tried to kidnap their daughter so she could be forced into an arranged marriage were yesterday jailed for drugging her and trying to fly her out of the country.

Mohammed Bashir and his wife, Sakina Khan, gave their daughter Rehana, 20, a drink laced with the "date rape" drug Rohypnol at her grandfather's funeral and drove her to Manchester Airport.

The couple wept in the dock of Manchester Crown Court, claiming they were acting out of love for their daughter who they believed was in a relationship with a jailed drug dealer.

But Judge Anthony Ennor told the couple, from Bradford, West Yorkshire: "To endeavour to kidnap somebody and take them away in the manner you attempted is contrary to the law of this land... people like your daughter must be protected."

The couple admitted kid-

napping and administering a noxious substance to Rehana, a student at Luton University. Bashir was jailed for two years and his wife for six months.

Leslie Hull, for the prosecution, told the court that British-born Rehana had left home for university partly because she had been under pressure to go to Pakistan and get married. While her parents retained their traditional culture she had been keen to pursue a more independent life.

After being given the drugged drink she was driven 50 miles to Manchester Airport. She regained consciousness there, and despite being told by her parents that she was in hospital, became angry and alerted airport staff.

Her parents pleaded guilty to the offences. "They were adamant they hadn't intended to harm their daughter and had done what they had done in what they regarded as her best long-term interests," said Mr Hull.

### In brief

#### New places for medical schools

**MINISTERS** are poised to agree funding for an extra thousand medical school places in response to growing demand for healthcare.

Page 2

#### Aid for poor pupils

Manchester Grammar School will offer free or subsidised places to all poor pupils who qualify for entry - but only after checking their parents' wealth.

Page 4

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF P12 & P28 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, THE EYE • FULL CONTENTS, P2

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# Diana inquiry: Key players called together for 'confrontation' as wild claims continue to cloud investigation

## Fayed fumes at 'snobs, vultures and bastards'

By John Lichfield  
in Paris

IT WAS a day of absurd contradictions. A day of long periods of calm. And one extraordinary outburst by Mohamed Al Fayed, in which he accused Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, of being an "English snob", who refused to talk to a "working class guy" like him.

It is now nine months since Diana died in the underpass beneath the Place de l'Alma in Paris. Yesterday's gathering at the Palais de Justice in Paris - a "general confrontation" of witnesses, participants and interested parties - was the nearest the world has yet come to a formal attempt to make sense of the events of the night of 30-31 August 1997.

The 10 most notorious paparazzi in the world - but who can remember their names? - entered the Palais de Justice by a side door to avoid the waiting cameras. Mr Fayed, who has rubbished the official investigation from the beginning, spoke at first of a "very good hearing", chaired by a "fantastic" judge.

No side doots for him. He arrived in a cavalcade of four limousines with an entourage of 13 people, including his own photographer.

He re-emerged during the afternoon to lash out on all sides. The hearing had gone nowhere, he said. Mrs Shand Kydd, also present, was "a snob", "an English snob", who thought she was part of the Royal Family, and didn't "want to talk to people like me". The paparazzi were "vultures", who were mostly responsible for the crash; if it hadn't been a court room, he would have "hung them all". Only God could really say what happened: one day he would "open the box" and expose all "the bastards" who were responsible for his son's death.

The gathering - not a trial but part of the investigation - took place behind the closed doors of the Chambre des Crimés, an ornate room on the



Mohamed Al Fayed (centre) leaving the Palais de Justice in Paris after yesterday's 'confrontation' of witnesses and other key individuals

Photograph: Reuters

first floor of the Palais de Justice, a room generally used to auction property seized by the French state. The master of ceremonies, in black gown and white forked collar, was Juge Hervé Stéphan, the investigating magistrate in charge of the Diana inquiry.

The idea was to hear the testimony of the nine press photographers, and one dispatch rider, formally suspected of being partly and indirectly responsible for the crash; and also suspected of behaving callously by taking close-up pictures afterwards.

Their accounts were being matched, face-to-face, with the recollections of eye-witnesses, policemen and ambulancemen. And also against the testimony of 200 pictures taken by the photographers themselves, before and after the crash.

Which pieces of evidence fit-

ted together? Which accounts added up: which did not? Who is lying, or exaggerating? Or just mistaken?

Outside, the odd witness or the occasional defence lawyer would feed scraps of information to the waiting press. Then the press would feed the scraps

to one another. It is to be hoped that the hearing made more sense than the scraps.

Apart from the witnesses, the paparazzi and a score of lawyers, only one other category of person was allowed into the room: the bereaved. Mrs Shand Kydd was there; so was Mr

Fayed, father of Diana's companion, Dodi; so were the parents of Henri Paul, the chauffeur who drove the car on the fateful night, the man accused posthumously of driving a high-powered Mercedes while under the influence of large quantities of alcohol

and anti-depressant drugs. It had originally seemed that the "general confrontation" - a frequent device in complicated judicial investigations in France - would signal the beginning of the end of the inquiry. Judge Stéphan has always said that he would like to be finished in June.

However, one of the defence lawyers present, Maître Jean-Marc Coblenz, confirmed earlier reports that this would not now be possible. Delays in the minute, technical examination of the wreckage of the crashed Mercedes would prevent Judge Stéphan from making a final report for "several months", probably until October, he said.

Was the hearing proving useful? Had anything new emerged? Maître Coblenz, speaking half way through the day, shook his head.

There were eight witnesses present, six men and two women. The only one who made himself readily available to the press - perhaps too readily - had a strange tale to tell: not one which fitted easily with any of the established, or half-established, facts.

Jacques Morel, a 50-year-old retired sound engineer, said he had been driving through the tunnel in the opposite direction: there were photographers waiting by the tunnel entrance for the Mercedes to arrive, he asserted. Afterwards, he said, there were many more photographers - at least 20 - at the scene than the 10 present in the Palais de Justice.

Told of his comments, a defence lawyer waved his arms in exasperation. "Yes," he said. "There were special buses bringing photographers from the Ritz to the Place de l'Alma: at least two buses."

The French newspaper *Le Parisien* reported that Juge Stéphan was more determined than ever to produce a comprehensive report which would nail every rumour and throw back into the sea every red herring raised by the world's media (and Mr Fayed).

The investigation continues.

## Rival camps play out the drama on the small screen

By Kim Sengupta  
and Sally Woodford

YESTERDAY'S meeting of the main, surviving, players in the drama surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was the culmination of a week of claim, counterclaim and recrimination.

Mohamed Al Fayed's claims that the princess was the victim of a conspiracy and murder have come under attack in a Channel 4 television documentary.

According to the *Dispatches* programme Mr Fayed set out to snare the princess into his family through his son Dodi, and her death was caused, as originally thought, by drunken fast and reckless driving by the Paris Ritz driver Henri Paul, and a breakdown in security. However, since her death the Fayed camp had created a smoke-screen of conspiracy theories.

The *Dispatches* documentary comes in a week of fevered claims and counterclaims over the princess's death. An ITV documentary, *The Secrets of the Crash*, made with the co-operation of the Fayed camp offered a conspiracy scenario. The programme's 12 million viewers were told that Mr Paul may have been "poisoned" by high levels of carbon dioxide in his blood, and he had links with



The wreckage of the Mercedes car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed died

Photograph: Big Pictures

the French secret service. Most royal experts described these allegations as rubbish.

Officials at the Paris Ritz and the bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, had said Mr Paul did not appear to be drunk, and had been drinking pineapple juice mixed with water. Mr Fayed's camp had issued video footage which purported to show him walking and behaving in a manner which did not suggest he was drunk.

But in the Channel 4 show, Alain Villaneuz, a barman at the Bar Vendôme, said he saw Mr Paul drinking Pastis, and afterwards "he staggered to the exit", bumping into another barman on the way. Mr Villaneuz also claims he was asked

by Mr Fayed's representatives to support their version of events "for the good of the Royal Family".

Michael Cole, who was until recently Mr Fayed's spokesman, had dismissed claims that Mr Paul had taunted and challenged waiting paparazzi as he drove off saying they would never be able to catch him. The Fayed camp had also claimed that Mr Paul was fully qualified to drive the Mercedes limousine which was owned by a hire company called Etiole.

However, a driver called Frederick who worked at the Ritz until last month, said in the programme that he was present when Mr Paul made the chal-

lenge then drove off at speed. He also claimed that Dodi Fayed told him that his father had personally instructed that Mr Paul did the driving that night. Roland Birbin, of the French limousine drivers' association, said that Mr Paul was not a member and did not have the necessary qualification to drive the Mercedes.

In its pursuit of a conspiracy theory the Fayed camp had made much of a Fiat Uno which is supposed to have clipped the Mercedes before the crash. Mr Fayed's people are said to have tracked down the car. But *Dispatches* revealed French investigators have already tracked down and eliminated the car from their inquiries.

Mr Fayed had repeatedly claimed that he had been told about the last words spoken by the princess before her death. He had also said that he saw her body. But Sami Nair, an adviser to the Minister of the Interior, said that he arrived at the hospital before the princess was taken there.

He said: "I can confirm in definite terms that she did not utter a single word." He added the room where she was taken was closely guarded and the Harrods owner's claims to have seen her was "almost impossible... and extremely questionable."

## Who conspired with whom?

By Kim Sengupta

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was murdered by M16 at the behest of the Duke of Edinburgh. Who says so? Hundreds of people around the world who are convinced that her death was no accident.

Prince Philip was apparently deeply disturbed by her relationship with Dodi Fayed, and felt that she was destabilising the Royal Family. An

Egyptian lawyer is at present preparing a case to bring the head of M16 and Prince Philip to trial on the charges in Cairo.

Others, of course, know this is nonsense. The real killers, they will say, were Israeli agents who were determined to prevent a member of the Royal Family marrying an Arab who would become the stepfather of the future British king. They engineered the crash by "fixing" the brakes of the Mercedes.

They were helped by the French secret service, who had driver Henri Paul on their payroll. Indeed, an ITV documentary earlier this week claimed Mr Paul had links with French intelligence.

If Mossad did assassinate the princess, the agents got there before the Freemasons. As everyone knows, they have the influence and the means to organise murder and then carry out a cover up. Four of the paparazzi

chasing the car were, according to this theory, Freemasons.

There are many more such conspiracy theories. Nine months after the crash in Paris, fevered new explanations appear about what really happened. There is now an Internet website on the conspiracies where those with access can fantasise together. In Libya, a conspiracy is official. Jana, the state news agency, stated: "Only children believe it was an accident."

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**Independent education:** Academic flagship launches new-style assisted-places scheme but warns of stricter means test for applicants

# Top school in £10m bid to provide free access

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

ONE OF Britain's most famous independent schools is to offer free or subsidised places to all poor pupils who qualify for entry but only after it has checked the size of their parents' houses and incomes.

Dr Martin Stephen, head of Manchester Grammar School, said that a £10m appeal launched today would create a new type of "free access" independent school and enable it to offer the same number of assisted places as the government scheme abolished last year.

But he promised that the means test for his school's scheme would be strict to avoid the "misuse" of funds which had occurred under the government scheme which paid out a total of £140m to around 10,000 pupils each year.

He said: "The means test for the old scheme had two weaknesses. It didn't measure the capital value of claimants' houses so that technically you could be living in a £1m house on a very low income. And in the case of single or divorced people it didn't allow for the existence of a partner. We are

going to check people's council tax band and the income of the household. We don't think old Mancunians are going to give money if they think it will be misused."

He believed only a small number of people had misused assisted places, mainly in London and the South-east. Rules for the old scheme were laid down by the Government but policed by schools.

The Prince of Wales has agreed to act as patron for the appeal for the school (fees, £4,500 a year) whose old boys include cricketer Mike Atherton, writer Alan Garner, actor Robert Powell and financier Howard Davies. A total of £3m has already been raised to ensure that the 40 free or subsidised places will be available for the 210 boys who enter the school this September. At present, 400 boys throughout the school receive full or near full-fees support.

Dr Stephen said: "This is an unashamed attempt to refund one of our oldest schools which was founded in 1515 to provide free education for local people."

His school which caters for 1,400 boys who must pass an entrance test was top in last year's



Choirboys at Manchester Grammar School where traditional values are held dear and levels of academic achievement are unsurpassed. Photograph: Brian Duff

GCSE league tables and 58 of its sixth-formers have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge this year.

Almost all independent schools with assisted places are fund-raising to replace them, but most are expected to do so

on a more modest scale. The Girls' Public Day School Trust is trying to raise £70m for its 25 schools. Each school will decide how to administer funds and how checks should be made on applicants.

A spokesman for the Inde-

pendent Schools Information Service said that it had been very difficult to abuse the assisted places scheme because schools became very skilled at policing it. Bursars, for instance, describe how they turned down assisted-places applicants who

drove up to the school in new Range Rovers.

Under another scheme, funded by businessman Peter Lampl, Manchester Grammar will help sixth-formers from poor backgrounds to prepare for Oxbridge entrance. Extra classes

will be offered for them during the school day, at weekends and during the holidays.

Dr Stephen said they would want to be certain that any pupil who benefited from the initiative was unable to afford the school's fees.

## OLD BOYS MADE GOOD



**Mike Atherton**  
Former England cricket captain. Appointed England under-19 captain, at age 16, while still at school.



**Ben Kingsley**  
Oscar-winning actor whose stage career began as member of school dramatic society



**Martin Slesmith**  
Former BBC Moscow correspondent - took Russian O and A-level at school.



**Howard Davies**  
Former Bank of England deputy governor and CBI director-general. Head of Financial Services Authority.

## Mother fights axing of assisted school place

THE HOPES of an 11-year-old boy being allowed to continue his education at a private boarding school under the assisted-places scheme hung in the balance yesterday.

A High Court judge heard that the Department for Education and Employment is now considering "fresh material" supporting the case of Alastair Sanderson, who is in danger of losing his place at the King's School in Ely, Cambridgeshire, following the rundown of the scheme. The parents of many pupils in a similar dilemma are closely watching the case.

Alastair's mother, Yvonne Sanderson, 39, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, yesterday came to court to launch a test-case challenge against the decision last February of David Blunkett,

the Secretary of State for Education, not to exercise his discretion to permit her son to keep his assisted place at the 800-pupil school throughout his secondary education until the age of 18.

But her application for leave to apply for judicial review was adjourned after Philip Engelmann, appearing for the family, announced that Mr Blunkett was "re-determining" the case. Pushpinder Saini, for the Secretary of State, said it was not accepted that the minister "has done anything wrong", but a re-determination was necessary because the family solicitors had submitted further material and a decision would be made by 26 June.

Mr Justice Hadden said he would adjourn the case and order that it should come for an

expedited hearing in July if Mrs Sanderson wished to challenge Mr Blunkett's final decision.

Mrs Sanderson said outside court that "Alastair", who had learning difficulties, started at King's School last September after being offered his place in February 1997. The 1997 Education (Schools) Act, which came into force on 1 September, abolished the scheme for secondary education. But the Secretary of State had discretion to continue to fund existing pupils.

Mrs Sanderson said: "The main issue is that a promise given by the Government, that children offered assisted places will continue their education, should not be broken."

"We have had a letter from Mr Blunkett saying that he will honour this promise."

### IN BRIEF

#### BBC calls for release of staff

The BBC yesterday urged the Yemeni Government to allow the three journalists still held in the Yemen to return to the UK immediately. The three men face their twelfth day of detention today after allegedly filming without permission in a restricted area of the Yemen for a BBC2 Correspondent documentary about kidnappings. They were arrested on 26 May and held without charge until Thursday.

#### EU to discuss ban on driftnets

ANIMAL welfare campaigners today urged the EU to back a UK call for a ban on "walls of death" driftnets. EU fisheries ministers meet on Monday to discuss the proposal to outlaw the nets, which catch dolphins, whales, sharks, turtles and diving birds as they float from weights for miles across the seas. The UK is calling for a ban as part of its presidency, in a bid to halt the slaughter of marine life.

#### Firefighters' strike feared

FRESH strikes were called yesterday in a row over firefighters' jobs, amid signs that the dispute could escalate across the country. The Fire Brigades Union announced that its members in Essex will walk out on June 12 and 15.

The dispute worsened when the authority warned firefighters they could be dismissed for joining the strike.

#### Thieves 'preyed' on mourners

A PAIR of pickpockets who spent days "preying" on the crowds that gathered outside Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, were jailed for three years today at Knightsbridge Crown Court. Anthony Powell, 32, and Marva Williams, 42, were branded "totally unscrupulous parasites".

#### Pilot killed in plane crash

A PILOT was killed yesterday when his vintage Hawker Hunter jet aircraft crashed at Dunsfold Aerodrome, near Godalming in Surrey while returning from a practice flight.

## Boy, 17 stabbed at school

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy was being treated in hospital last night after being stabbed at school, police said.

The boy was said to be in a comfortable condition at the Royal Halifax Infirmary after the incident at Holy Trinity Senior School in the Holmfild area of the town.

A West Yorkshire police spokesman said another 17-year-old had been arrested and was being questioned in connection with the incident.

Terry Cobb, a senior teacher at Holy Trinity, said: "The head and the chair of governors are investigating the incident and at this point there is no further comment."

Head teacher Philip Williamson confirmed that the incident was being investigated and said the injured boy's parents had been informed.

He said the wound was superficial and the boy was in no danger.



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# 'Khashoggi will be ruined by gambling habit'

By Kate Watson-Smyth

ADNAN Khashoggi is addicted to gambling and it will ruin him financially, his first wife Soraya said yesterday.

Speaking after the former international arms dealer settled his case against the Ritz Casino, which sued him for £3.2m worth of cheques which bounced, Mrs Khashoggi said her ex-husband was still a gambler.

"He is addicted to gambling and he can't stop going to casinos. He is in denial but he needs help. I don't think he realises he is an addict," she said.

AK, as he likes to be known, was once reputed to be the richest man in the world with a fortune worth £2.4bn. An international Mr Fixit with lucrative connections, most of his money was made from commissions paid on sales of aircraft and arms to the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, by Western companies.

With wealth came all the trappings of success - homes in Europe, the Middle East, the United States and East Africa; a private DC9 jet and a yacht

named after his daughter ihabila.

In 1961 he married Soraya, who said yesterday that he loved to gamble even then.

"He called me his lucky rabbit and liked me to go with him," she said.

"If we were getting ready to go out for the evening and he said 'bring a big handbag', as opposed to a small evening one. I knew we were going gambling."

Mrs Khashoggi said she never gambled but she made a deal with her husband, the uncle of the late Dodi Fayed, that he would always give part of his winnings to charity.

"If he won he would push those chips over to me to go to a Lebanese orphanage and I would cash them so he couldn't have them back."

"We made that deal to keep me quiet because I hate gambling."

Mrs Khashoggi, who divorced in 1974 and sued her husband for half his fortune, said: "He gambles wherever he is and even if I buy a lottery ticket and ring him up he will tell me his numbers."

"I am really glad that some-

one has brought him to court and that he cannot blame it on a business deal," she said.

Mr Khashoggi was being sued for the money - plus interest thought to be around £5m - but on the fourth day of the hearing, Mr Justice Rouse heard that the parties had agreed a settlement. The details were not disclosed but costs of the case are thought to be up to £1m. Neither side would make any comment.

The court heard that Mr Khashoggi visited the Ritz Casino on 13 occasions between the end of the January and the beginning of April 1986. But 16 of his cheques were refused on presentation because of "insufficient funds".

His favoured game was roulette and he would cash cheques for £200,000 a time, although Mrs Khashoggi said she had seen him cash far larger cheques.

But Mr Khashoggi claimed the debt was legally unenforceable because he had an arrangement with the casino's management which allowed him to continue gambling on credit, contrary to a section of the 1968 Gaming Act.



Soraya Khashoggi: 'He called me his lucky rabbit and liked me to go out gambling with him'

Photograph: Alpha

Robert Englehart, QC, for Mr Khashoggi, stated yesterday: "Mr Khashoggi is happy to make it clear that he withdraws any suggestion that the Ritz acted improperly or in contra-

vention of the Gaming Act."

Mr Khashoggi, the son of a personal physician to the Saudi king Abdul-Aziz, has always attracted controversy. But Mrs Khashoggi, who is still very close to her ex-

husband, said he would probably laugh off this latest scandal. "He would give away the last penny in his pocket, he is so generous and humble. Even if he is in the middle of a big business meeting

and a maid comes into the room with a tray he will stand up and open the door for her."

"But he has got to put his responsibilities to his family, his children and grandchildren

first. We want him to live a long time and not drop dead with a heart attack over some lawyer's case. He will probably never speak to me again after this but somebody has got to say it. He needs a wake up call."

## Teenager's skull was badly smashed, court told

By Louise Jury

THE SKULL of the teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins was so badly smashed that it was clear she could no longer be alive, a court heard yesterday.

Denise Franklin, a neighbour called to the scene by the girl's foster father Sion, broke down in tears yesterday as she studied photographs of the scene she found in the family's garden.

Mrs Franklin told the jury at Lewes Crown Court in East Sussex that her instinct was not to

look at the dead girl because she was aware of huge amounts of blood around her head.

It was when she went to put the 13-year-old into the recovery position for injured people that she realised there was no point because her head was so badly damaged. "It was obvious that she couldn't be alive," Mrs Franklin said.

She told how when she arrived at the Jenkins' family home in Hastings, East Sussex, Billie-Jo was lying "remarkably flat, in the sense that she

wasn't at all dishevelled", on the garden patio where she had been painting the doors.

The girl had been fostered by Sion Jenkins and his wife, Lois, for five years alongside their four natural daughters. She was lying in a pool of blood and part of a black plastic bin liner was pushed up her nose when she was found fatally injured in February last year.

Mrs Franklin said that as she attempted to tend to Billie-Jo, Mr Jenkins was comforting two of his children, Annie, then 12,

and Lottie, 10. Although she feared Billie-Jo was dead Mrs Franklin still insisted that the ambulance should come in case she was wrong.

Mr Jenkins, 40, a deputy headmaster, denies murdering Billie-Jo. But the prosecution claims that nearly 150 microscopic specks of blood on his blue sleeve jacket and trousers prove he was the murderer.

Mrs Franklin told yesterday how later in the evening of Billie-Jo's death, the Jenkins family were at her home. Mr

Jenkins refused to put on his jacket when his wife handed it to him as they left, even though the temperature had dropped to nearly freezing.

The court heard that Mr Jenkins had not checked to see whether Billie-Jo was breathing before he dialled for an ambulance. In a transcript of two telephone calls to the emergency services read to the jury yesterday, Mr Jenkins was heard to say "Ambulance please... it's an emergency... my daughter's fallen, or she's got head injuries.

There's blood everywhere."

The operator asked if she was breathing all right. "I don't know, I haven't looked," he said.

Mr Jenkins was given instructions on putting Billie-Jo in the recovery position and checked for a pulse and was told to call again if she was not breathing. The court heard that after Mrs Franklin arrived Mr Jenkins dialled 999 again, eight minutes after his first call.

The court also heard from Robert Megill, an administration officer at William Parker School

in Hastings where Mr Jenkins was deputy head teacher. He delivered some papers to the Jenkins' home shortly after the discovery of Billie-Jo's body, but has told nothing of the drama inside.

Dr Megill said: "He wasn't the Sion I know. There was no greeting I would normally expect." He handed over the envelope of papers and Mr Jenkins closed the door without saying anything.

The case continues on Monday.

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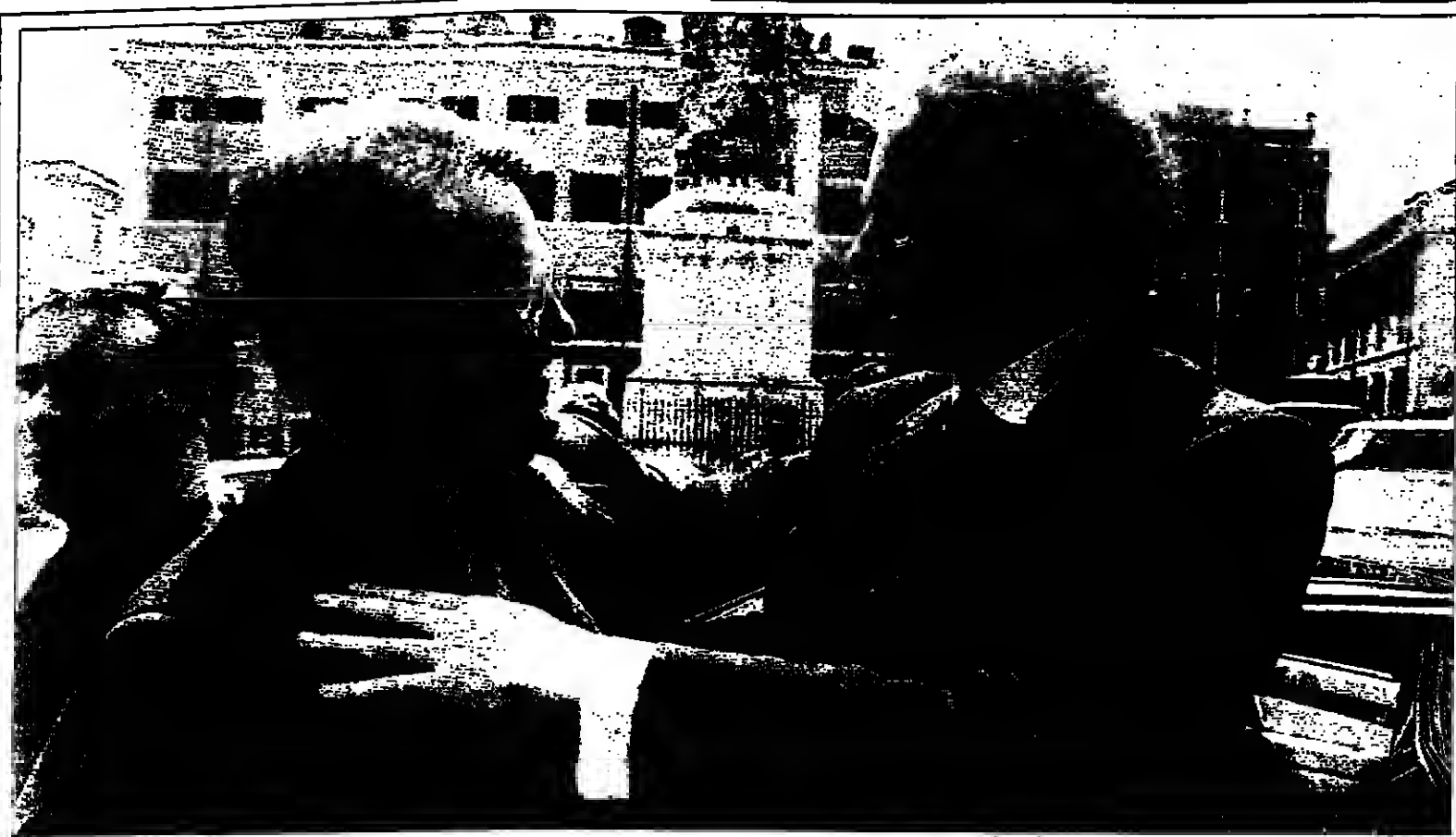
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The Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi (left), and Tony Blair embracing in Piazza Colonna, Rome, yesterday as they met on Mr Blair's brief visit to the city to discuss the European Union's next summit, which starts on 15 June in Cardiff  
Photograph: Filippo Monteforte/EPA

## Treasury sinks plans for new aircraft carriers

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

TREASURY ministers have sunk George Robertson's plans to make two new aircraft carriers costing £8bn, a key part of his strategic defence review.

The Defence Secretary is being forced by the Treasury to concede that no date should be set for ordering the new warships and no budget allocation will be made for them.

"We didn't have aircraft carriers on our pledge card at the election," said a Treasury source. The Chancellor is targeting the £22bn defence budget for cuts to pay for big increases in health and education spend to answer claims that

the Government risks failing to keep its election pledges.

Mr Robertson is still battling to protect his £22bn defence budget from deeper Treasury cuts and he has Tony Blair's backing for keeping all Britain's main commitments, including the nuclear capability with the Trident submarines.

But the Defence Secretary was given a hard grilling by Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a bilateral meeting this week, and faces a renewed onslaught from the Treasury team within the Cabinet Committee on Defence and Overseas Policy, which is considering his strategic defence review plans.

"We believe the carriers are part of a coherent plan for making our forces more responsive. But we have a battle on our hands," said a defence source.

Mr Robertson has offered cuts totalling £500m, including controversial savings on front-line units in the Territorial Army reserves, but the Treasury wants more than a £1bn in cuts. It is demanding more value for money, with more effort to sell off valuable MoD land and property, such as surplus grace and favour houses for the "brass hats".

The Defence Secretary has included the big new generation of carriers in his plans to give Britain greater firepower in

areas such as the Gulf. They would be similar in size to the American carriers, which can allow conventional jet fighters to operate from their decks.

Britain's fleet of smaller carriers are limited to using the Harrier jump-jets, which had difficulty operating in intense heat in the Gulf zone.

Defence sources said all of the services have been forced to make cuts to afford the improvements.

"There's something in it for everyone," said a source. The RAF could see its combat aircraft reduced, but it will have the bonus of securing the order for the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA), which the Treasury wanted to abandon.

The Army's tank force on the Rhine - formerly the front line against the Soviet forces - will be reduced, but a presence will be maintained to underline Britain's Nato commitment in Europe. Army recruitment is to be stepped up with an extra 3,500 troops, and a sixth rapid deployment brigade is to be established to eliminate "overstretch" among troops forced to do too many overseas tours of duties.

The sources said the army would be a fifth option in New Labour's "new deal" for jobs, but service would be voluntary, and there would be no return to national service.

## Adams backs prisoners' Bill

By Colin Brown and Alan Murdoch

A BILL to speed up the release of terrorist prisoners from Belfast jails as part of the Northern Ireland peace process, yesterday won the support of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists.

A Downing Street spokesman insisted the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill meets the Prime Minister's pledges linking prisoner release with decommissioning terrorist weapons.

"The bottom line is that no prisoner will be released unless the organisation they are related to have given up violence for good," the spokesman said.

Although the Bill does not detail the terms of the surrender of weapons, clause three gives the Secretary of State, Mr Mowlem, the power to bar prisoners from release if she believes their organisations have refused to give up violence.

The Northern Ireland Office denied that it would pave the way to legalise the IRA. Ending prosecution of the IRA would require the repeal of sections of the

Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act and the Home Office Prevention of Terrorism Act, which is not planned.

Up to 400 jailed paramilitaries could benefit under proposed legislation published as part of the Good Friday agreement. Ms Mowlem said: "There will be no general amnesty. The gates of the Maze prison will not suddenly be thrown open."

An independent body is to be set up to review each case, prisoner by prisoner, but only those belonging to organisations who declared unequivocal ceasefires will be considered for release on licence.

Sinn Féin's Gerry Kelly said: "According to this legislation there will be a substantial number of releases by the end of the summer and we intend to hold the British government to that."

Mr Adams said: "Clearly in the Good Friday agreement the bottom line is that all of the prisoners need to be out within two years. I see that as the key part in this legislation."

Despite welcoming the Bill, Mr Trimble said his party would be tabling amendments "to try to make it watertight".

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# A game of two halves – and quite a few pints

When it comes to boozy nights out, today's footballers are novices, says Phil Shaw

IMAGINE the scene. George Best sprawls naked on his hotel bed. A small fortune in casino winnings is strewn on the bedside table. As Miss World emerges from the bathroom to join him, there is a knock on the door. Service with the champagne. Surveying the scene, the porter shakes his head. "George," he says plaintively, "Where did it all go wrong?"

The moral panic which greeted the revelations about Paul Gascoigne's latest drinking spree and Teddy Sheringham's presence in a Portuguese night-club until dawn must have brought knowing smiles from Best and other survivors of the Bingeing Sixties. By their standards, or lack of them, Gazza and his fellow guzzlers are mere novices.

Jimmy Greaves, a contemporary of Best's and arguably the English game's finest post-war striker, was the first high-profile player to admit to being an alcoholic. In 1979, he published a book, *This One's On Me*, in which he blamed the win-at-all-costs mentality.

According to Greaves, players were so stoked up for games that they needed a heavy after-match session to bring them "down to earth". His addiction started with pints. But even then, 20 years ago, he had noticed a set hooked on spirits springing up.

Yet with one conspicuous exception, when he and Bobby Moore were caught out on the town before a West Ham match at Blackpool, Greaves' habit was not a public issue until he made it one. Best had more trouble keeping his problems private, though he performed for a decade at the top level before his form suffered.

In time, he would turn his lifestyle to financial advantage on the after-dinner circuit. "I spent a lot of my money on booze, birds and fast cars," he sighed. "The rest I just squandered." Joking aside, the drinking led to a world-class talent being dumped by Bournemouth and Hibernian.

Among Best's contemporaries, the gifted Alan Hudson made no secret of his liking for liquid refreshment. When the current England player, Tony Adams, confessed his alcoholism – soon to be followed by Paul Merson – Hudson suggested in a newspaper column that the Arsenal

## BRITAIN'S BAD BOYS XI



captain was not in Bobby Moore's class as a defender or a drinker.

Despite having the King's Road on his doorstep, Hudson decamped from Chelsea to Stoke in the 1970s. His manager there, Tony Waddington, was famous for indulging players provided they performed. It was said locally that they "trained" in a night-club called Jolles.

Excess was not confined to the big names. The long-haired, wild-eyed Robin Friday, of Reading and Cardiff, spent one New Year's Eve drunkenly dancing on pub tables. The next morning, marked by Bobby Moore, he scored twice.

In those days, Scottish football was synonymous with bravado fuelled by

"the bevvie". Before the 1974 World Cup, winger Jimmy Johnstone was found at sea in a rowing boat in a self-confessed "drunken stupor". When he was rescued he was singing "Sailing".

A year later, after winning in Denmark, several of the Scotland team, including the captain, Billy Bremner, went on a club crawl. It ended after a player threw a rum and coke in a barmaid's face and the police were called. Bremner and the rest of the "Copenhagen Five" were banned from representing their country again.

Scandal also followed Scotland to Argentina in 1978, when Willie Johnston was sent home after testing positive for a banned substance. And at the 1990 finals in Italy, Mo

Johnston reportedly led colleagues in search of "birdz 'n' booze". Of another Scot, Frank McAvennie, it was said that "his tippie was nippie".

Almost single-handedly, Duncan Ferguson, Everton's former Rangers striker, has carried on the ignoble tradition. "Duncan Disorderly" already had a record for assault when he was sent to Barlinnie prison for giving an opponent a "Glasgow kiss". On arriving on Merseyside, he was soon arrested on a drink-driving charge.

Despite the Scots' lack of scoring power, Ferguson asked to be left out of the squad for the World Cup. Scotland's present team is almost Cliff Richard-clean by comparison with their predecessors.

Keith Gillespie, Best's fellow Northern Irishman, is another modern player who has gained notoriety. He was recently alleged to have "fought" Alan Shearer outside a bar and has a reputation for gambling, often wagering four-figure sums.

Stan Bowles is probably football's most infamous friend of the bookies. He joined Queen's Park Rangers to be near White City dog track. One manager lamented: "If only Stan could pass a betting shop like he can pass a hall."

While there is no British drug casualty of Diego Maradona's standing, a spate of cases involving "recreational" drugs has arisen during the 1990s. A number, curiously, have in-

volved young Charlton Athletic players, although Shane Nicholson was sacked by West Bromwich last month after failing tests.

There is, however, a parallel tendency of players obsessed with fitness and diet. In the Scottish squad, a group led by Monaco's John Collins is known as "the Gym Club".

Among their forerunners in the 1930s was the Blackpool and Northern Ireland player Peter Doherty, who once recalled how he and a team-mate were teased by the other players. "They used to chant: 'They don't drink, they don't smoke, they don't go out with women. What do they live for?' There was a one-word answer to that – football."

## Bingeing raises questions of morale

Dr Ken Fox, exercise and sports science expert at Exeter University, talks to Jeremy Laurance

"GOING on a one-night bender may have nasty short-term effects but they are unlikely to last longer than a day. The much more serious question is whether England players who risk their hard-won fitness clobbering all night are mentally prepared for the rigours of international competitive sport."

What was Teddy Sheringham thinking of, carousing into the small hours in a Portuguese nightclub? Why would he do that, assuming the reports are accurate, a matter of days before the opening game of the World Cup when it is critical that he be at peak fitness? When you go on a binge you are out of control and vulnerable – you can be injured, you can walk into a wall or have an accident. Alcohol breeds violence, and for a public figure there is a risk of being assaulted, too.

Partying, smoking and drinking may not be a problem in terms of their short-term physical effects. One night on the tiles is not going to damage the fitness level of a highly tuned athlete. The key issue is what this says about discipline and morale in the squad.

It is the same with Paul Gascoigne. His supporters say he is not fit enough yet – but he could be in time. The question is: why is he not fit now? What does that say about his attitude?

Alcohol causes dehydration as well as impairing mental capacity. We are all familiar with hangovers. It can take 24 hours to recover from one and if you are performing the next day that may cause serious problems. The real issue with drink is the risk of an accident that the drinker is exposed to. That is why it is a threat to performance.

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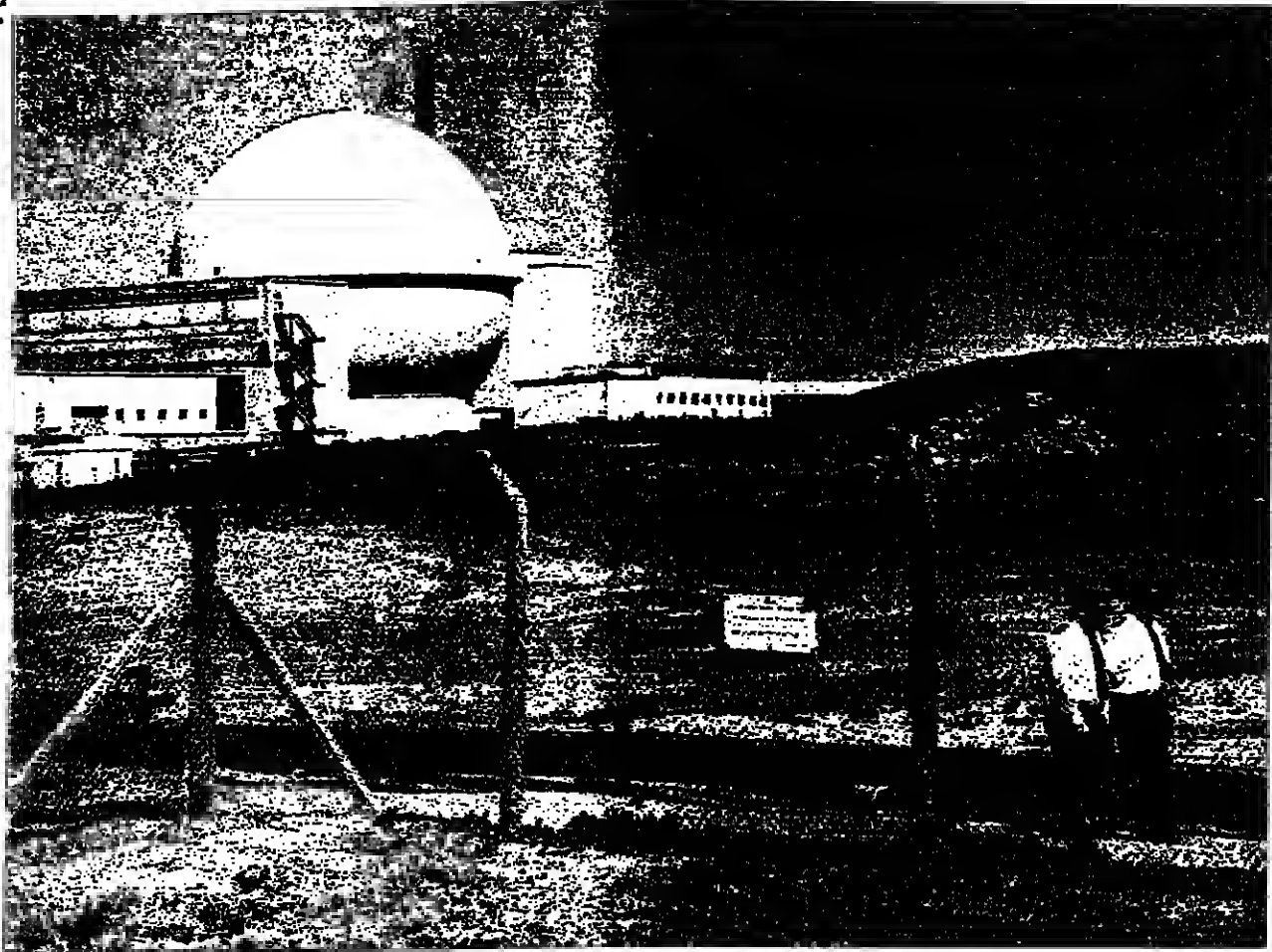
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The dome of Dounreay's Fast Reactor, once known as the 'Dome of Discovery', has been listed Photograph: David Rose

# The experiment ends, but Dounreay lives on

THE END, when it came, was swift. A brief press conference in Edinburgh yesterday morning and Dounreay, the nuclear plant where they "lost" enough uranium for 10 Hiroshimas, was history. The beast lay dead, anti-nuclearists singing and dancing on its corpse.

As with all such things, however, little is as it appears. Not much will change at the processing plant near Thurso, on the far north coast of Scotland. Dounreay was on its last legs long before yesterday's announcement. Its life as a nuclear power station ended in 1994. Besides a tiny amount of highly enriched uranium brought in secretly from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, it has only one reprocessing contract, from Australia.

Despite this, Dounreay has made headlines repeatedly through a series of embarrass-

While the nuclear plant is to close, its work will continue for years, writes Charles Arthur

ing mishaps and pratfalls. The plant accepted the shipment of spent reactor fuel from Georgia - despite the fact that its reprocessing plants had been shut down by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the grounds that many of the ventilation systems urgently needed replacing.

It was fined in court for having allowed three employees to receive one-off internal radiation doses greater than the annual allowed dose. And a mechanical digger sliced through power cables for a processing area and the back-up power system for the ventilation system failed to kick in.

Currently Roy Nelson, the plant's director, has nine gov-

ernment nuclear inspectors crawling over his plant.

Dr Nelson admitted that a new £1m electrified fence had to be installed around key areas of complex last year, after mock terrorists managed to walk into the plant during a security exercise. "It's not a question of just getting in, but of how long it takes," he said. "Any challenge that's mounted will replicate what terrorists might do. The police are here to protect the materials on-site."

Perhaps most alarming has been the accidental leakage of nuclear material from the plant. A number of radioactive particles as big as a grain of sand have been discovered lately on the beach and in the sea near Dounreay. But radioactivity dating shows that they date back to the Sixties, rather than from some modern-day process. Dr Nelson has complex geological explanations for how they may have surfaced.

Steve Gashmore, now 50, worked in the plant for 18 years from the late Seventies until he took early retirement. He is unmoved by protests about the way nuclear material was handled at the plant in the past: "In the US at that time they used to dig a hole and throw things down it. In Russia they would just throw it in a lake."

"With all the environmental stuff, you have to understand it in the context of the time before judging it. Forty years ago you could get in a car without wearing a seat belt, without an MOT, and there was no such thing as drunk driving. We're judging the past by the standards of today."

Nevertheless, environmentalists and concerned local residents managed to crank up the pressure on a Labour government sensitive about its standing in Scotland.

The final straw came when a report by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, which owns and operates the site, suggested that 170kg of fissile "material unaccounted for", including weapons-grade uranium, might be lurking down the 216ft deep waste shaft. The shaft itself was the site of a (non-nuclear) explosion in 1977 caused by sodium metal coolant coming into contact with water. Cynics suggested that the "lost" material had actually been diverted to the UK's weapons programme.

Such speculation fed on the

secrecy that surrounded Dounreay. Mere hours before the closure announcement Dr Nelson was insisting that he wanted his staff to move away from the culture of secrecy - with an almost obsessive worship of the Official Secrets Act - that prevailed for the first 30 years of the plant's life. "I think it's because the atomic energy business was strongly connected to weapons, where there had to be a high degree of security."

That was back at the height of the cold war, when Dounreay was a pinnacle of British achievement. Few people know its reactor was in fact the first in the world to produce electricity for public consumption.

Eric Voice remembers the moment Dounreay drew its first breath: "It was mid-1957. There was a team of three of us at Dounreay, working on achieving criticality - a self-sustaining, chain reaction in nuclear material. I had built a sort of sphere shape of material, and I remember being on the verge of causing criticality. All I had to do was press a button with my finger. So I called over my colleagues so we could all press the button together."

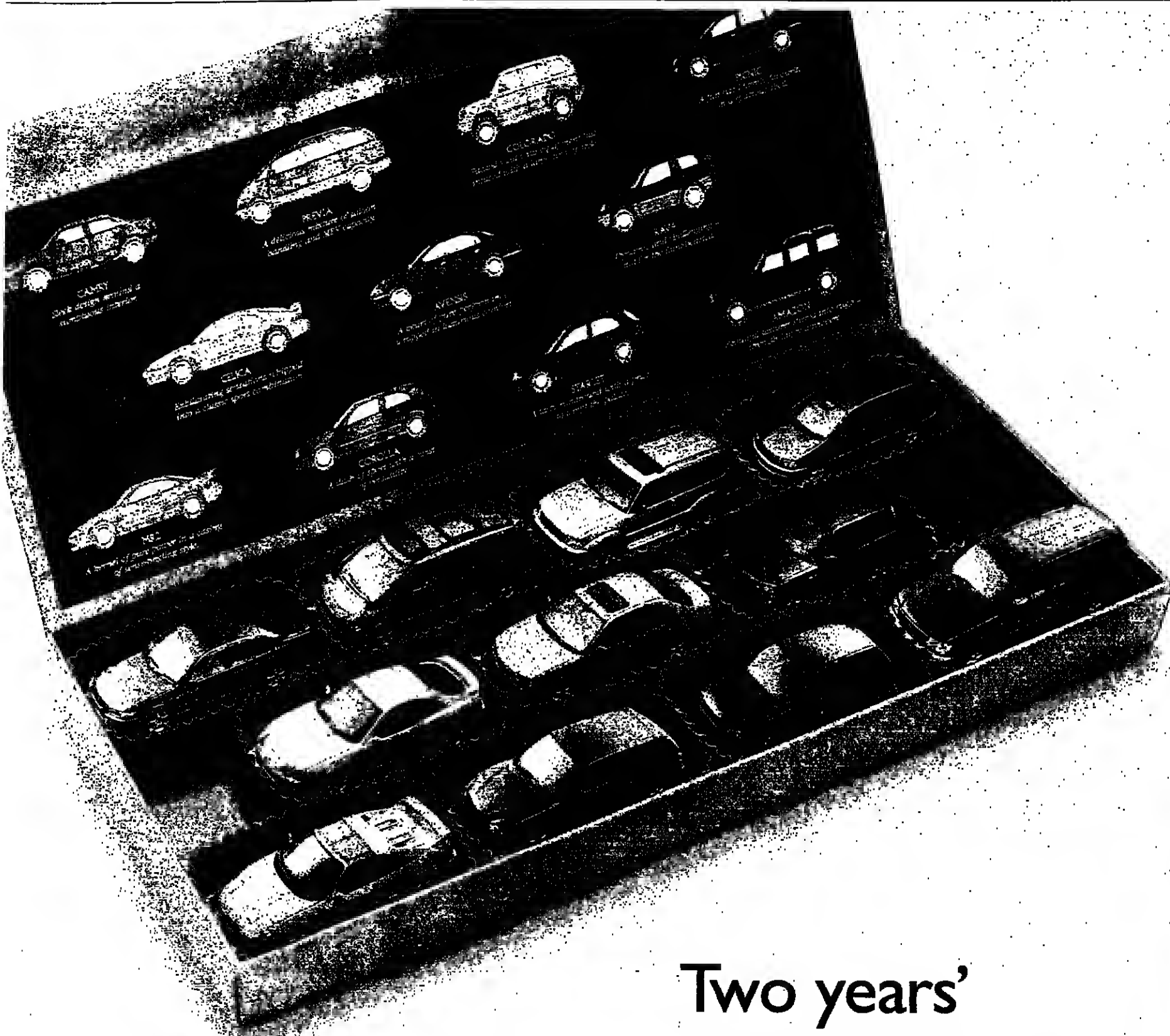
It demonstrated that nuclear power could be generated safely in the north as well as the south of the British Isles. "Before then, nobody had heard of the region of Caithness," says Dr Voice, now in his seventies and still living in Thurso. "It was almost a pilgrimage to come here; we felt we were driving the future."

He dismissed this week's speculation about the "lost" uranium: "When you're reprocessing fuel, the uranium, or whatever, comes dissolved in solution. The plant doesn't drain completely - there will be areas with hold-ups. You'll get a difference between what you thought you put in and what you get out."

He was the first scientist on the site, and worked out of a Nissen hut while the complex was constructed, boosting Thurso's population from 3,000 to more than 8,000 people.

In those days everything seemed possible. The spherical shell that would house the Dounreay Fast Reactor was known as the "Dome of Discovery".

The Dome will remain: it has been listed by Scottish Heritage. But the rest of the plant will continue to process nuclear material, at least until 2006. And maybe, in 100 years or so, its door will finally close.



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# Designs for Scottish parliament building unveiled

By Nonie Niesewand  
Architecture Correspondent

SCOTTISH MPs will debate home rule in a towering veil made of transparent mesh in the year 2001, if the Australia-based practice Denton Corker Marshall is chosen to be the architect of the new Scottish parliament.

Alternatively, they may be under scrutiny in a glass lantern with their talking heads beamed onto huge outdoor wrap-around screens, if UK-based practice, Michael Wilford and Partners is chosen.

The first designs for Scotland's new parliament were unveiled at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh yesterday as five finalists from a shortlist of 12 revealed their ideas for the most important public building to be commissioned this century.

On Monday six other centres in Scotland will exhibit presentation boards from the five rival architects. The public is invited to comment and a winner will be chosen next month by a Select Committee of MPs.

"At this stage we're not choosing a scheme, but choosing a firm to work with," says Professor Andy McMillan. He is keen to avoid a knee-jerk reaction to designs which the architects say are still fluid. Nevertheless what you see is pretty well what you are likely to get, with some modifications, because nobody could afford the time to start all over again with a blank piece of paper. Besides, the finalists have spent a great deal of time working on the exacting brief from the Scottish Office.

The Secretary of State, Donald Dewar is pleased with the results: "The ideas are imaginative and exciting and give me confidence that we shall find a team to provide a fitting home for the parliament."

So MPs could find themselves in a glass tower looking up at an elliptical saucer if Rafael Vinoly, the New York-

based architectural practice is the winner.

Canvassing opinions in just a fortnight is a challenge. So the canny Scottish Office restricted the finalists to presenting their ideas on six big presentation boards rather than expensive scale models. Some architects are better at story boards than others.

Expressing Scotland's history while delivering modernity is the architectural challenge. The palace of Holyrood, where the Royal Family stays when it visits Edinburgh, will be the new building's nearest neighbour. It must have been the inspiration for EuroDisney: turretted towers flourished with flagpoles dominate.

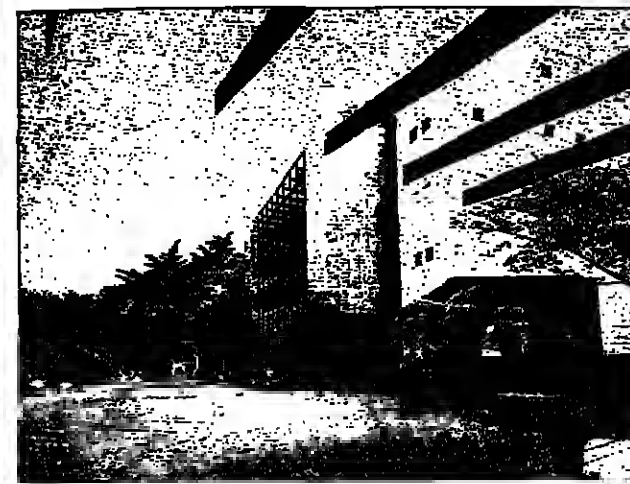
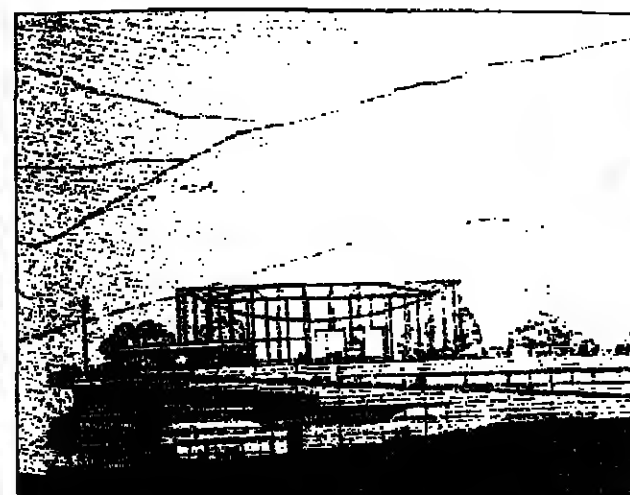
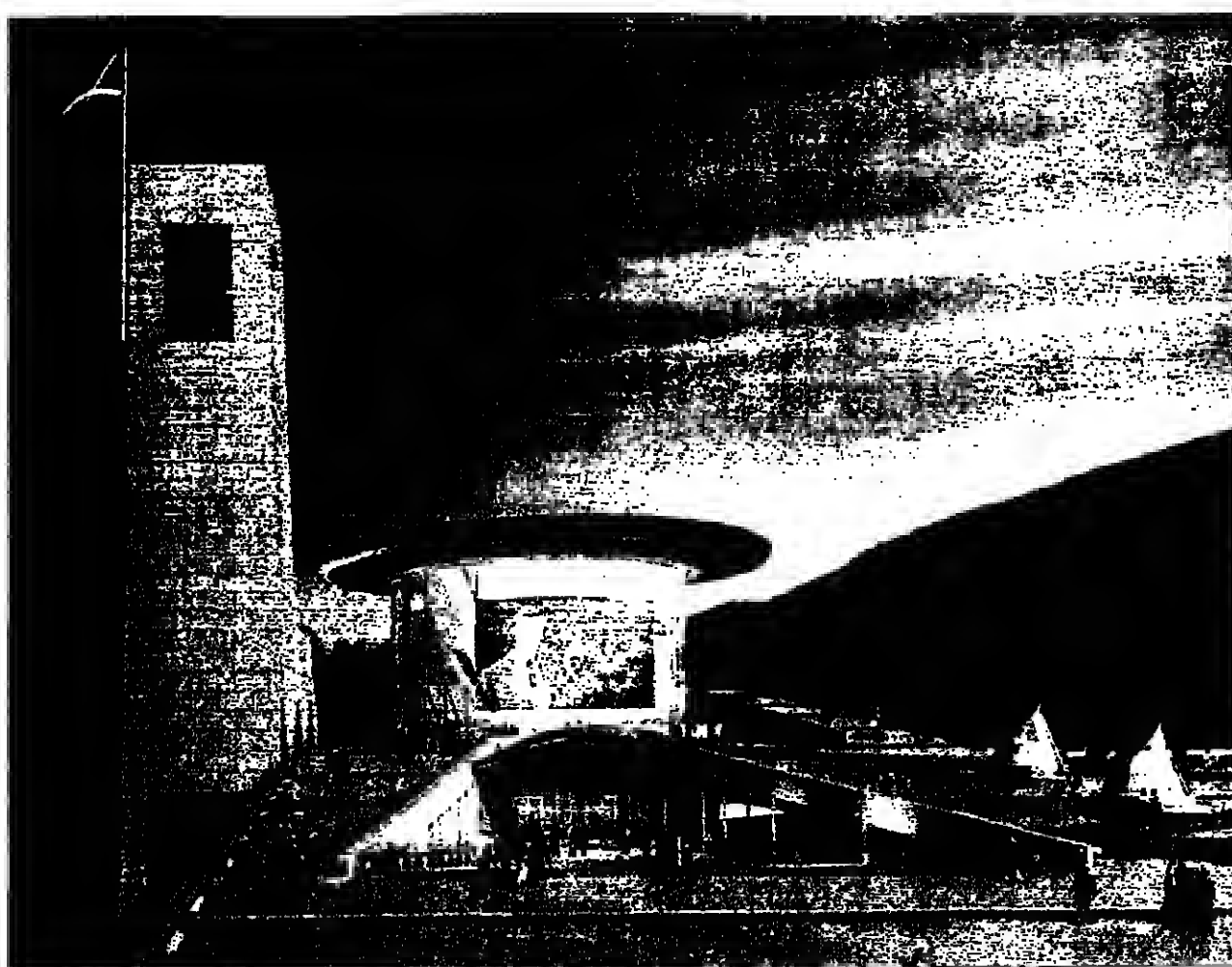
Of all the schemes, Wilford's has been most sympathetic to Holyrood, giving it an axial symmetry while turning its face upon the palace. One historic building, Queensberry House, stands on the site. At one end of the Royal Mile side looms Salisbury Crags. At the other, Edinburgh Castle.

But ex-pat Scot, James Gibson, from Denton Corker Marshall, is keen on the fact you will have to look down upon the Parliament: "It's not hierarchical. We don't look up at it. Scottish people like to take an overview of the whole process of parliament."

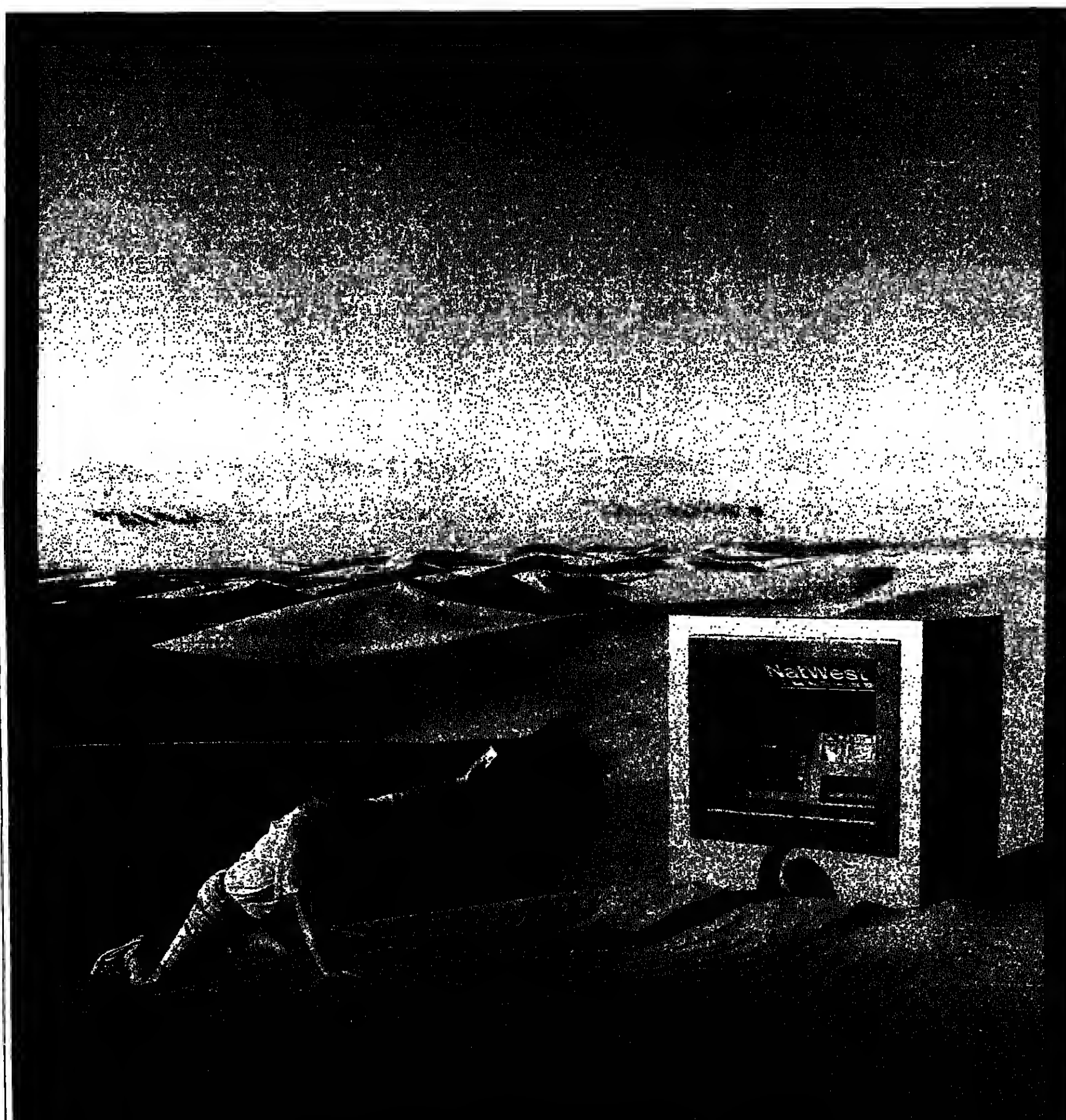
So the firm's building is less obvious, shaped like a teardrop in silver perforated mesh, folding in on itself. When Scottish Office civil servants saw the design for the first time, they called it "Scotland's Guggenheim" but James Gibson says it is neither iconic, nor precious.

For over a century Scottish buildings have been given to English architects to design. So does this disadvantage London-based Michael Wilford, who plans to send his core team headed by Laurence Bain to Edinburgh if he wins?

"There is no bias expressed in nationality," declares one observer. "They're looking for a great architect who has the capacity to deliver by 2001."



Michael Wilford & Partners' futuristic design (main picture), Rafael Vinoly's design (top right) and Glass Murray & Denton (bottom right)



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An Albanian walking past a house burnt down by Serb police in a village near Pristina

Photograph: AP/Santiago Lyon

## Refugees vow to fight Serbs to the death

MEN TAKING their families across the border from Kosovo to Albania to escape a Serb artillery offensive are purchasing arms and other supplies, and returning to fight the enemy. They all have one objective: to fight the Serbs and defend what is left of their homes in Kosovo.

"This is not a surrender," said one 30-year-old man as he registered his wife and four children as refugees at the mosque in Tropoje, in northern Albania. "All men will go back and fight," he said. The men said they were tired of waiting for foreign powers to force the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to stop the assault on their villages, which have caused tens of thousands to flee.

"We waited for years for the international community to prevent the outbreak of this war," said Shaban Lukja, 48, from



Decani, a battlefield town in Kosovo. "But now that there is little hope left, we shall take care of it ourselves."

A spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency said that setting a figure on the total numbers who had crossed the Albanian border in the past few days was

still difficult, but estimates remained at about 10,000.

"Our people on the spot report very moving scenes of people coming down the mountainside and literally collapsing when they get to the plateau," Judith Kumin said. "People are walking between 12 hours and three days to get over the mountains."

The UNHCR said the latest arrivals had reported five deaths from exhaustion on the journey — two elderly people and three children. The refugees are fleeing from the Decani-Djakovica area of western Kosovo, where Serb forces have launched a massive operation against what they say is an Albanian insurrection.

In Tropoje, horses and mules loaded with guns, vans without license plates transporting young men in camouflage uniforms and the sound of sporadic gunfire make the border town seem like a military base. While thousands of women, children, and elderly have found refuge with families or in makeshift shelters, the men, with few exceptions, are gearing up for war.

Youths under the age of 20 are being trained to handle guns, and no attempt is being made to hide the military preparations.

The Kosovo Liberation Army, an underground guerrilla force fighting for Kosovo's independence, is not much in evidence. Only a few men be-

lieved to be KLA members have been seen in the area.

In Tropoje, guns are changing hands in the central piazza. A Kalashnikov sells for DM350 (German marks (£120); a camouflage uniform costs DM50.

Tropoje is a small town in the impoverished north of Albania, and the 10,000 or so ethnic Albanian refugees have already outnumbered the 8,000 inhabitants. Newcomers are directed to other towns because Tropoje is overflowing.

In the provincial capital of Kosovo, Pristina, the Serbian police announced yesterday that they had taken control of the road connecting Pec and Djakovica, the two biggest towns in the west. "The road is now in police hands," said a source close to Serbian security.

The Serbs said the KLA in the border region was now split into groups and that the police were conducting "mopping up" operations in the woods. They said the KLA was slowly retreating into the Drenica area, the heartland of Albanian separatism, which fits the police plan of cutting off their escape routes to Albania and containing them in Drenica until lack of supplies and food forces them to surrender.

Western intelligence sources believe that the Malisevo-Lapushnik area, south-west of Pristina, could be the next focus of Serb attacks.

## Nato warns of military action over Kosovo

By Rupert Cornwell

THE Western powers yesterday stepped up their pressure on President Slobodan Milosevic, with their clearest warning yet that Nato would intervene militarily, if necessary, to prevent Serbian violence and alleged ethnic cleansing in the Albanian-majority province of Kosovo.

Speaking in Rome, Tony Blair declared that Kosovo would not degenerate into another Bosnia, where Western dithering is widely blamed for allowing war to drag on for three years. "We are examining every possible option," the Prime Minister said after talks with his Italian opposite number, Romano Prodi. "It would be a very serious error to underestimate our resolve."

Earlier, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, was even more explicit: "The full power of Nato is considering all options, including the most radical ... military options that could, and might have to be, made available. President Milosevic should be under no illusion about this."

In an unusually blunt statement, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan accused the Serbs of "atrocities" in Kosovo and demanded that "this kind of aggression" be confronted "immediately and with determination."

The hope is that the tough talk will prod Mr Milosevic into meaningful negotiations with the ethnic Albanian majority over a new and special status for the province, granting wide autonomy but stopping short of full independence. But scheduled talks yesterday were boycotted by the Albanians in protest at the crackdown which has taken at least 50 lives in the past week, and there is no sign when they might resume.

Mr Robertson's words also reflect the growing realisation that Nato's initial plan, to deploy perhaps as many as 20,000 troops along Kosovo's border and in Macedonia to prevent the conflict spreading, might be counterproductive — actually helping the Serb cause by depriving guerrillas from the Kosovo Liberation Army of both supply lines and sanctuary in Albania. The alternative would be direct intervention by Nato forces inside the province.

Alliance defence ministers will examine such plans at a meeting in Brussels next week. On Friday, the Contact Group of six major powers, comprising Britain, the US, Russia, France, Germany and Italy, will gather in London. Almost certainly five of them, with Russia the usual dissenter, will tighten economic sanctions against Belgrade. They perhaps agree in principle to military intervention.

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# Ethiopia plunges into war with Eritrea

By Steve Crawshaw

A SIMMERING border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea exploded into full-scale war yesterday, with bombing raids by both sides.

Eritrean warplanes bombed the northern Ethiopian town of Mekele twice, killing dozens of people and wounding more than 100.

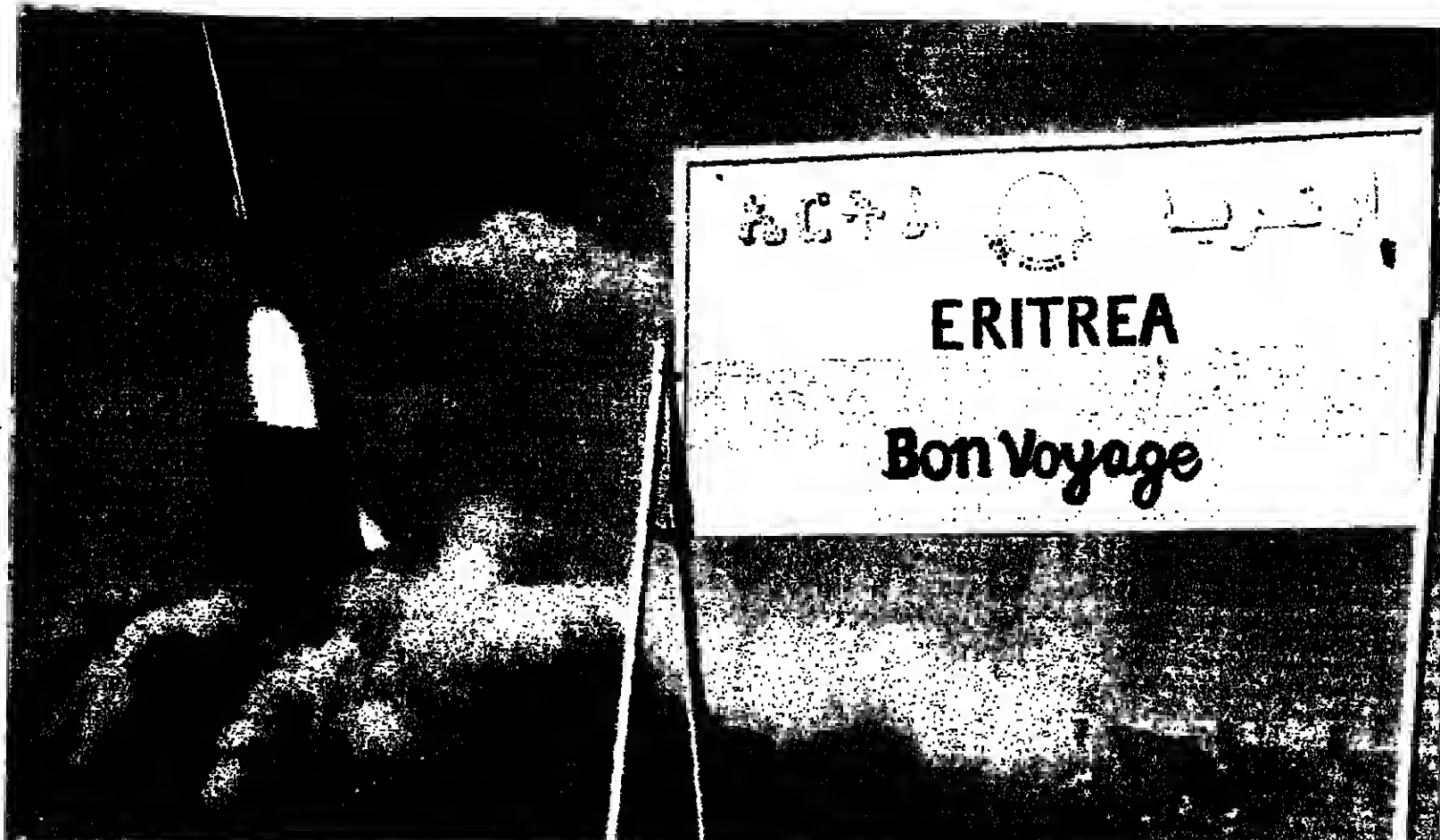
After the first raid, Ethiopian warplanes bombed the Eritrean capital, Asmara. Ethiopian aircraft twice bombed an Eritrean air-force base in the city. Eritrean anti-aircraft guns downed two Ethiopian aircraft, and thousands of jubilant Asmara residents rushed into the streets to celebrate, waving their young nation's red, blue and green flag.

On the first run, the bombers hit two hangars used as workshops, the tarmac, and a nearby junk yard.

No injuries were reported. Hundreds of people rushed to the airbase, attracted by the sound of the explosions and the heavy smoke in the air. Eritrean soldiers moved in to clear civilians out of the base.

Chartered aircraft were due to evacuate hundreds of foreigners, including Britons, from Asmara, where the airport remained open.

The attacks came a day after Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Meles Zeawie, warned that his country's patience with Eritrea was wearing thin because of As-



An Eritrean army missile being fired into Ethiopia near the countries' border, the focus for their simmering dispute

Photograph: Sami Sallinen/AP

mara's refusal to withdraw from territory that Ethiopia claims it occupied a month ago. However, he denied that Addis Ababa was preparing for full-scale conflict. "I am not declaring war in Eritrea," he said. "I am saying enough is enough." Mr

Meles said the Ethiopian army had orders to "take all necessary measures against repeated Eritrean aggression". Eritrea vowed that it would never give in "to the language of force and intimidation".

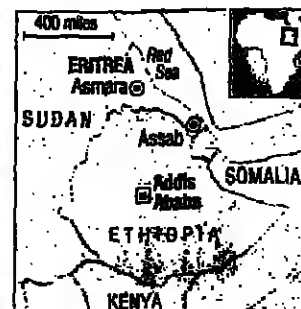
Eritrea and Ethiopia have

been engaged in a border dispute for nearly a month, though in recent days they appeared to be inching towards an internationally brokered settlement. The Ethiopian raid may have scuppered that. The dispute turned violent on 6 May with both

accusing the other of invading.

The dispute centres on a rocky triangle of land that both countries lay claim to. The border has been ill-defined since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993, after a long-fought rebel war.

Eritrea's President, Issaias Afewerki, and the Ethiopian Prime Minister were, ironically, comrades in arms in the struggle to oust the 17-year Soviet-backed Mengistu regime, paving the way for Eritrea's peaceful move to independence



in 1993. Now they are at each other's throats, upsetting the assertion advanced by US President Bill Clinton that a new and visionary group of ex-guerrilla leaders is transforming Africa.

Eritrea wants recognition for borders mapped by the Italians when they seized Eritrea as a colony in 1885. They do not accept the borders granted to Eritrea within pre-1993 Ethiopia.

Britain joined the United States and most Western countries yesterday in urging its nationals to leave Eritrea because of the clashes and said it was trying to arrange flights out of Asmara. "We're strongly advising British nationals to leave Eritrea," a Foreign Office spokesman said. There are some 120 British people in Eritrea.

Jane Malone, one of the Britons preparing to leave Eritrea last night, told BBC Radio that a colleague had been warned by the British Consulate that if they did not take the last flight available "we would be on our own".

## IN BRIEF

### Woodward question

THE pathologist who carried out the post-mortem on Boston baby Matthew Eappen in the Louise Woodward trial is under investigation.

According to US newspaper reports, Dr Gerald Feigin is being investigated for failing to spot a serious heart defect in the body of a 34-year-old man. He testified last year that Matthew had injuries consistent with being vigorously shaken. The doctor has since resigned from his post to take up another job.

### Dana a man

THE head of a rabbinical court ruled that Dana International, Israel's celebrated transsexual singer, could be counted in a minyan, the group of 10 men required for Jewish prayer services. However, the sultry winner of this year's Eurovision contest would have to become religiously observant before qualifying for prayer group, the court said. — AP, Jerusalem

### Haider runs

AUSTRIA's far-right Freedom Party said its leader Jörg Haider will run for governor of Carinthia province in March next year, a position he was forced to resign in 1991 after praising Nazi labour policies. — Reuters, Vienna

## McDonald's World Cup win has French seething

By John Lichfield in Paris

THE best-known names in French cooking yesterday basted and grilled the choice of McDonald's as the "official restaurant" of the World Cup in France. "It has been known from the time of the Emperor Vespasian that money has no smell, thanks to the World Cup, we also know that it has no taste," thundered a joint declaration by the five associations which represent French chefs and restaurants. (Since it is a rare event for these bodies to agree on anything, the common declaration was, in itself, a sign of just how annoyed they are.)

The depressing truth is that the French World Cup will have, officially, little French flavour. McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Snickers and Anheuser

Busch (brewers of Budweiser) figure among the 12 "official partners" of the competition, which begins on Wednesday.

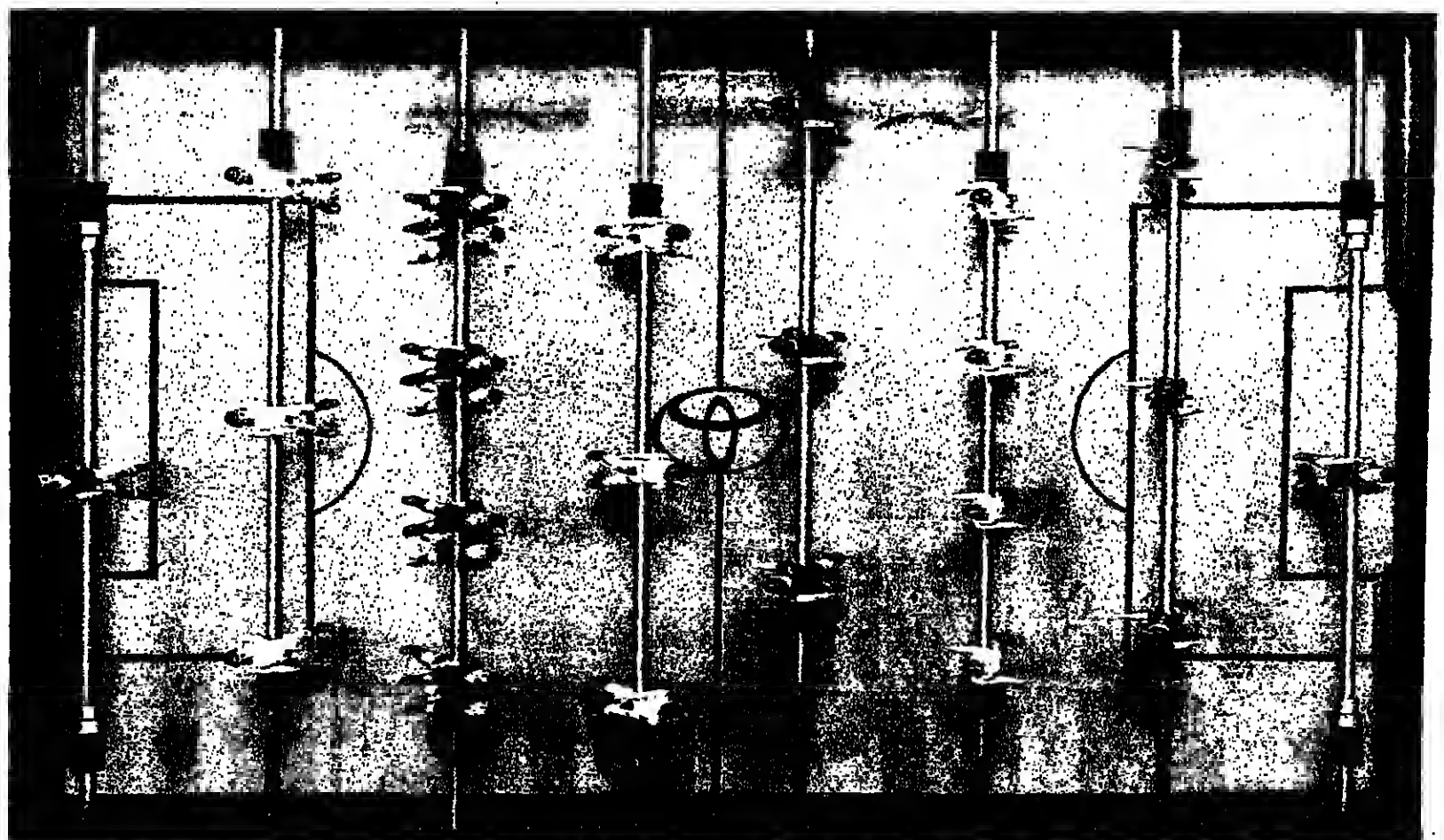
The list includes no representatives of the French food and drink industry, despite its international renown. The "partners" were chosen by the world football body, Fifa, months ago, on the basis of the size of their sponsorship bids.

"We have no problem about McDonald's being associated with the competition," said Ferdinand Mischler, president of the Union Française de la Cuisine. "We strongly object to McDonald's being named as the 'official restaurant' of the French World Cup. What are our visitors supposed to think? That hamburgers and ketchup are the true representatives of French cooking. It is outrageous and absurd."

The five organisations, representing everyone from Haute Cuisine chefs to young bistrot owners, said the football authorities could have negotiated some kind of deal with French restaurants "in all their diversity". Instead they chose the "simple and profitable" route of dealing with McDonald's, the global representative of "hamburger imperialism".

But do fast-food and sport not go together like boots and laces? Not a bit of it, protested Mr Mischler, who runs the celebrated restaurant, L'Auberge du Cheval Blanc, near Strasbourg. "If a footballer, or even a supporter, eats McDonald's every day, he will not keep going to the end of the World Cup. Better that they should go to a little restaurant and take the Plat du Jour at 45 francs (£4.50)."

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Just weeks after winning political freedom Muslim radicals are talking of creating a fundamentalist state

# New spectre of religious violence haunts Indonesia

By Richard Lloyd Parry  
in Jakarta

FOR ALL the euphoria which accompanied the end of president Suharto's rule, a nightmare haunts Indonesia and the first inkling of it came two weeks ago, barely a day after the fall of the dictator.

The scene was the Parliament where thousands of students had camped out all week, singing, dancing and chanting slogans. The day before, in response to their demands, Mr Suharto had resigned and the demonstrators were already turning their fire on his vice-president and successor, BJ Habibie. Then, in the early afternoon, the victorious students suddenly found themselves overwhelmed.

Without warning, and within minutes, the Parliament was occupied by 10,000 young Muslim activists who had arrived in dozens of hired buses. Anti-Habibie posters were ripped down and replaced with new ones praising the new president.

There were scuffles, as the demonstrators were driven off the steps of Parliament, and the new crowd cheered as their leaders gave speeches and they chanted slogans rhythmically in Arabic. "For 30 years Muslims had nothing under [Suharto's] New Order, and all the money went to Chinese and Christians," said Darwin Agus, of the Islamic Youth of Indonesia. "Habibie is a good start in preparing for the next step, government by the Koran."

The Muslim crowd departed peacefully, and such scenes have not been repeated. But the incident looked uncomfortably like a portentous hour after the country's moment of freedom, on the symbolic site of its liberation, Muslim radicals were talking about creating a funda-

mental state. More than most countries, Indonesia is haunted by the fear of religious violence, which was put into words this week by Amien Rais, the country's moderate Muslim opposition leader. Referring to the religious carnage which tore apart Bosnia from 1992-95, he said: "It's not impossible that what happened to Yugoslavia could also happen to Indonesia."

Judging from statistics, Indonesia looks like a country ripe for religious conflict. Eighty per cent of its 202 million people are Muslim, making it the largest Islamic country in the world. But that still leaves a 40 million-strong minority, comprising Christians, Buddhists and Hindus. Economically powerful, these minorities are increasingly nervous.

They are unevenly distributed throughout the vast archipelago. In East Timor, Catholics are the majority, and are fighting for independence against a predominantly Muslim army. In Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra, Islamic fundamentalists, some trained in Libya, have run an intermittent guerrilla war against the government of Jakarta.

Over the past two years, economic and political discontent has regularly been expressed along racial or sectarian lines. Churches have been burnt down in several cities, and the principal victims of last month's riots were ethnic Chinese, most of them Buddhist or Christian.

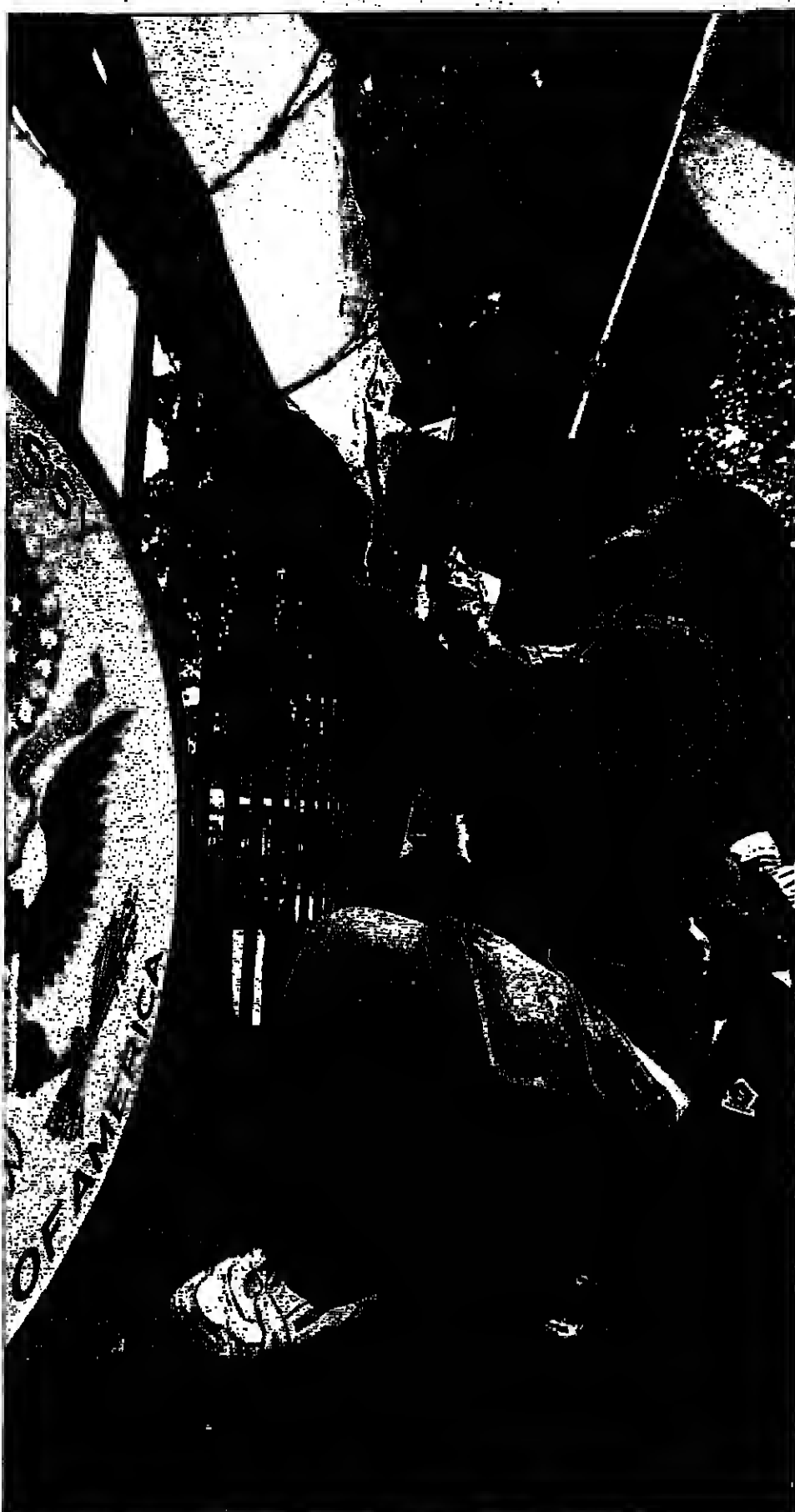
But these alarming facts can obscure a striking fact about Islam in Indonesia: its unusually tolerant and accommodating character. Partly this is a factor of history - Islam was introduced peacefully and gradually by medieval Arab traders, and it was filtered through, and mingled with traditional folk beliefs.

Some see it also as a reflection of South-east Asian culture and geography. "We are the only Muslim nation in the form of islands," said the Muslim scholar and reformer, Nurcholish Madjid. "We have a green, equatorial climate while other Islamic nations are barren land or desert. That must have something to do with the difference."

But Indonesian Islam has also been affected by the Indonesian political doctrine, or "national ideology", known as Pancasila - "the five principles". On the face of it, the Pancasila is so vague and benevolent as to be nearly meaningless: belief in a divine essence (Islamic, Christian, Hindu, or Buddhist); justice and civility among peoples; national unity; democracy through consensus; and social justice. They have been interpreted in wholly different ways by Mr Suharto and their inventor, Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno. But the vagueness was calculated, and the Pancasila remains a formula for national unity and co-existence in one of the world's most diverse states.

Under Mr Suharto, political unity was enforced: only three parties were permitted and all of them were tools of the president. Throughout his 32-year reign he played rival Muslim leaders off against each other. One of Mr Habibie's most striking concessions to the spirit of reform has been to allow the formation of new parties.

Of the handful that have been unveiled, two are Muslim - Syarikat Islam and New Masyumi, both revivals of parties banned in the 1950s. The question is whether Indonesia is ready for such freedom, and how its fragile unity will bear up to the pressure of strident mass politics in a religious form.



A demonstrator scaling the gates of the US embassy in Jakarta yesterday during a protest by Muslims demanding that the US stops interfering in Indonesia's internal affairs. Photograph: AP

# India dashes hope of early nuclear ban

By Peter Popham  
in Delhi

WHILE THE longer term consequences of the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests are anybody's guess, the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, took the opportunity on Thursday to firmly to scotch the notion that India might now move swiftly to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Although Nehru was, in 1954, the first statesman in the world to give voice to the notion of a test ban treaty - back then they called it a "Standstill Agreement" - as the CTBT became a reality through the early 1990s, India, as one of the "threshold" nuclear states which had never tested, adopted the role of spoiler.

With five successful tests now under its belt, a unilateral moratorium on testing in place and a stated position that India now possesses enough data to obviate the need for further testing, it was thought that India might be preparing to win back the world's approval by signing. But Mr Vajpayee told the upper house of India's Lok Sabha (parliament): "We have said that we are ready to hold talks on the CTBT, but there is no question of signing the treaty in its present form."

He denied that India had made the tests with a particular adversary in mind. "India is not engaged in any arms race. Our nuclear tests were not aimed at anybody," he insisted.

He made dove-like noises in the direction of Pakistan. "We were even prepared to discuss the Kashmir question if Pakistan wanted to raise it," he said, "but we have not got any positive response so far. We hope that the response will come, both countries will sit together to find solutions to the problems."

Pakistan's foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, later welcomed Mr Vajpayee's speech, calling it "a positive move" and "a definite shift in India's foreign policy vis-a-vis Pakistan on

the question of Kashmir". The two sides remain miles apart, however, as Pakistan insists on third party mediation over the future of Kashmir, while India will only permit it to be treated as a bilateral issue.

After a Jackstraw Indian Budget on Monday which led most commentators to dismiss India's prospects for economic recovery any time soon, the credit rating agencies said sanctions following the nuclear tests, and the lack of measures to stimulate private investment in the Budget, have "intensified the downward pressure" on the country's sovereign rating. Pak-



Vajpayee: India's leader denies aggressive intent

istan's rating has already been lowered by Standard & Poor's, and may be lowered further.

"India and Pakistan, with their nuclear tests are two beggars fighting," was one Indian's jaded reaction to the accumulating bad economic news. And at the launch in Delhi of a new organisation to fight the government's nuclear arms policy, the Movement in India for Nuclear Disarmament, or MIND, one speaker pointed out that "the total outlay for the Ministry of Health and Welfare" in the just-announced Budget - 36.8 billion rupees, about £540m - was "well below just the increase in defence expenditure". The increase in allocation to the Departments of Space and Atomic Energy was more than five times the increase in the outlay for health.

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A team cutting through train wreckage at Eschede yesterday as the rescue work drew to a close. Photograph: Reuters

## Flaw in German train design 'caused crash'

By Imre Karacs  
in Eschede

THE GIANT cranes stood idle for most of yesterday as rescue teams hacked at the last 300-ton slab of concrete by hand. Underneath the rubble of Eschede's road bridge, the crushed metal gave up yet another corpse, bringing the death toll of Germany's worst rail disaster to 96.

Apart from 20 victims, the majority of the dead remain nameless. Until the forensic scientific work is completed, most relatives will not be confronted with the task of claiming the unidentifiable. Even dental records will not suffice in most cases because the victims' teeth and jaws are smashed beyond recognition.

As the rescue work drew to its conclusion, the special investigators took over. Yesterday,

they gathered more evidence pointing the blame at the third wheel in the carriage immediately behind the locomotive.

Government officials in Bonn confirmed that the steel rim of the wheel had broken during the journey. Beyond ruling out sabotage, they could offer no explanation. Metal fatigue remained the prime suspect.

What occurred after the wheel rim snapped is clearer. At the points approaching Eschede station, the broken wheel is thought to have jumped the rail. Travelling at an angle, the protruding first carriage struck the bridge pillars and wrenched itself off the locomotive. Several coaches got past the bridge before it collapsed. The greatest number of dead were in the fourth car, which got past the bridge but flipped over on its side. This account of the accident

has raised questions about the safety of first-generation Inter City Express (ICE) trains. The remaining 59 trains of this type were hurriedly inspected yesterday, and the first 10 were back on track in the afternoon.

But the checks will not allay safety concerns. It emerged yesterday that the train had received its 20,000km service on the eve of its final journey, and had been given a clean bill of health.

Experts are beginning to conclude that it was not the train that was flawed, but perhaps the fundamental design of ICEs. Unlike the French TGV, which is a high-speed train designed to run on dedicated tracks, Germany's ICE is a tag-on to existing tracks.

The track cutting through Eschede is an upgraded low-tech line, and the flyover that collapsed was designed for traf-

fic at lower speeds. The TGV's undercarriage is regarded by German experts as safer and more sophisticated than the suspect wheels of the ICE.

The list of unflattering comparisons is long. The articulated coupling of ICE coaches is considered less stable than TGV technology. The second- and third-generation ICEs are better designed and lighter than those that crashed at Eschede. Germany has not invested as much in building high-speed tracks, yet German Railways tries to keep up with French speeds. The French cut straight through the countryside. The Germans cut corners in other ways.

How much of this will be in the final report on the Eschede tragedy remains to be seen. A lot of national pride rests in the ICE. Potential clients around the world choosing between

## Satanic cult 'drove boy to kill mother'

By Mary Dejevsky  
in Washington

A TEENAGER accused of killing his mother and following up with a murderous shooting spree at his school has claimed he was possessed by demons after becoming involved with a Satanic cult. Luke Woodham, 17, said, through sobs that as he stood over his mother's blood-stained body, his head rang with a voice telling him to "kill, kill" or he would be "nothing".

Luke Woodham's claims brought a sensational twist to a trial that is the precursor of several school shooting cases that will come before United States courts this year. It also appeared to confirm the worst fears of the many Americans whose first impulse in these cases is to suspect the influence of devilish cults.

Rarely, however, are those suspicions borne out by subsequent testimony. More often, investigators and reporters turn up the banal chronicle of a social misfit, a history of seething resentment that builds up into an explosion of anger, or the aftermath of a broken romance.

In this case, though, Luke Woodham recounted a sequence of devil-worship and deadly scheming centred on his school in the small town of Pearl, Mississippi, that is calculated to rekindle the worst fears of American parents. According to the police, the accused was involved with a group of teenagers led by 19-year-old Grant Boyette, who plotted to kill other pupils. Several alleged members of the group, along with Mr Boyette, are facing separate conspiracy charges.

Closing arguments were heard yesterday in the first trial, at which Luke Woodham stands accused of killing his mother by stabbing her with a

butcher's knife. He will be accused at a second trial of shooting to death two of his classmates, one of them his former girlfriend, and wounding seven others. He was 16 at the time of the killings, which took place last October.

In court this week, Luke Woodham gave this version of what happened: "I remember I woke up that morning and I'd seen demons that I always saw when Grant told me to do something. They said I was nothing and I would never be anything if I didn't get to that school and kill those people."

Woodham's defence - in both the matricide and school-shooting cases, is based a plea that he is mentally ill and was not responsible for the killings. A medical expert testified that he suffered psychological problems, but two prosecution witnesses claimed that he was sane at the time.

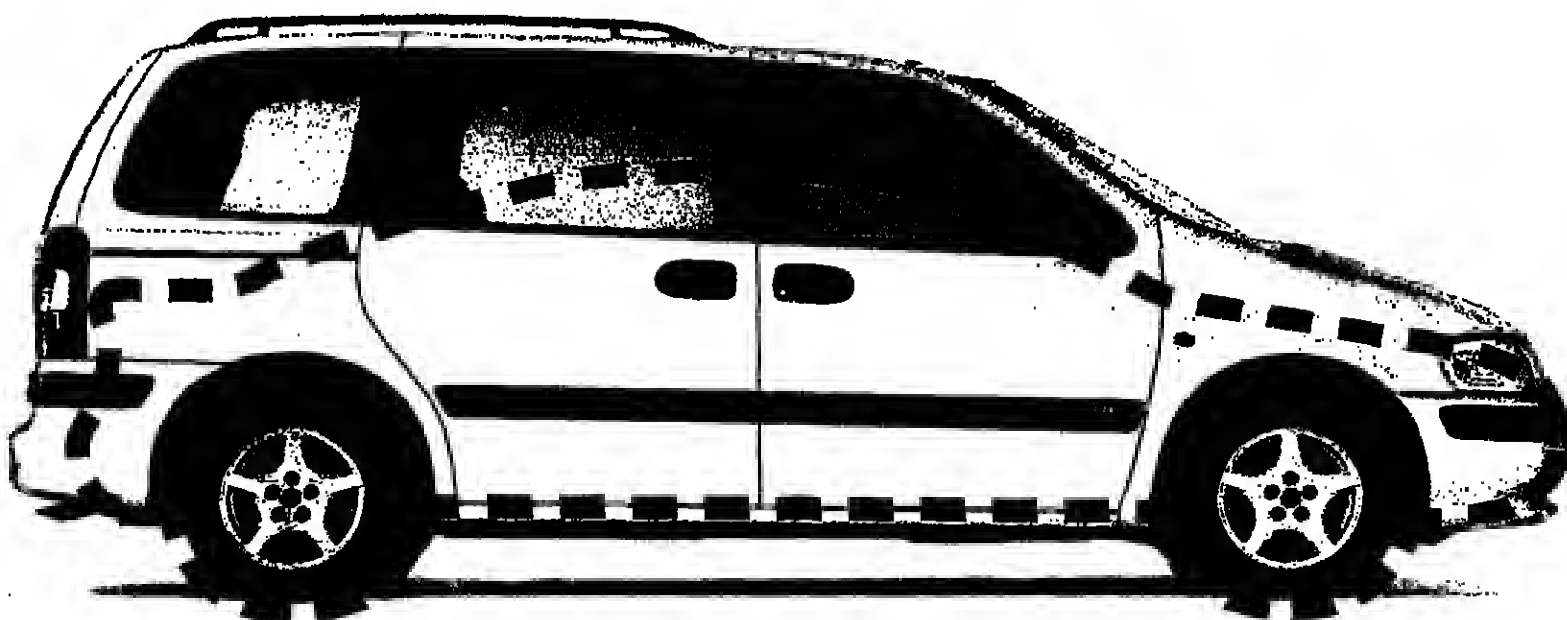
The Mississippi killings have attracted great attention across the United States as the first in what became a spate of school shootings.

Two months after the Pearl killings, a 14-year-old shot a group of pupils at his school in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three. In March, two boys aged 11 and 13, targeted school pupils in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with automatic gunfire as they trooped out of the building for a fire alarm, killing five. April saw the death of a teacher, shot by a pupil while supervising a school dance, and two pupils were killed and 22 wounded last month in the state of Oregon after a 15-year-old went on a shooting spree in his school cafeteria. He is also charged with killing his parents.

The outbreak of school shootings has given a new impetus to campaigners for stricter gun control.

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THE VAUXHALL SINTRA



# Modern plague ravages urban Eskimos

An Aids epidemic is threatening to wipe out the Inuit of Greenland, reports Katherine Butler

THEY congregate most mornings on the timber stairway by the Brugsen supermarket. First two, maybe three, then others appear from nowhere, clutching plastic carrier bags of bottled beer, to help them put in another day on the streets of Nuuk.

They look too young to be down-and-outs. Women and men, some hardly 40, though their faces are already craggy and weather-beaten. But the same faces are there every day, huddled in an alcoholic haze to shield them from the Arctic winds. Sometimes they go down to Nuuk harbour for a change of scenery; the unluckier ones weave their way to the new Aids treatment centre at the general hospital.

Everyone in Nuuk calls Queen Ingrid's the sanatorium, a relic of the days when tuberculosis was the big killer in Greenland. Today, the letters which instil fear in this polar outpost of the kingdom of Denmark are not TB, but HIV.

New findings based on four years of research into the disease in Greenland are "alarming" according to Morten Wintherik, a Danish doctor at Queen Ingrid's. He is now convinced the potential for a full-scale HIV epidemic is dramatic and is calling for urgent research into the strain of the virus seen in Greenland.

More than eighty cases have been confirmed in the Inuit population, which numbers only 50,000. Many more are thought to have gone unrecorded as victims flee their small, enclosed community for the anonymity of Denmark.

The pattern of infection is worryingly different from that in Europe, where rates are stagnating or starting to fall, Dr Wintherik says. "If

Today the letters which instil fear are not 'TB' but 'HIV'

you look at the size of the population and then the rate of increase here, these figures are alarming".

Dr Wintherik began studying the trends in 1994 when doctors in Sisimiut, 200 miles north of Nuuk, reported an explosion in new cases. In 1993, there were only two known cases of HIV in Greenland. The following year there were seven and in 1995, 14. Every year since has seen an increase in cases, concentrated mainly in Sisimiut and the capital.

Comparisons show that the spread, at 25 per 100,000, is three times faster than in Europe. The development of the virus into full-blown Aids is also faster in Greenland, sometimes as short as six months.

HIV's introduction into the Inuit population of Greenland dates from the late Eighties when man presumed to have been bisexual who had contracted the virus in Copenhagen - several thousand native Greenlanders live in Denmark - returned to Nuuk.

What marks out the infection in Greenland is that transmission is almost exclusively heterosexual. Women account for 45 per cent of the total known cases. This pattern and pace of spread makes the Greenland comparable to Africa as far as Aids is concerned, doctors say.

Unlike the typical HIV profile elsewhere in Europe, members of the known HIV community here exist on the lowest possible rung of the social ladder, heavily reliant on alcohol and handouts from the Danish-financed welfare system. Many speak little or no Danish, which keeps them isolated socially and educationally.



The traditional way of life in Greenland, based on hunting and fishing, is a thing of the past. As a result, alcohol consumption is high (bottom right). A graveyard in the capital, Nuuk, bears witness to the Aids epidemic (centre). Below left, Dr Morten Wintherik



is heterosexual transmission," Dr Palisgaarde says.

Modernity in Nuuk, the capital of a country which has no connecting roads because settlements are dotted around a glacier covering 85 per cent of the landmass, has brought bingo halls, video stores, a cinema - showing *Thelma & Louise* this week - mobile phones and higher living standards. But persistently high rates of murder, domestic violence, sex abuse, alcoholism and suicide reflect the extent to which the Eskimo people are still coming to terms with the profound societal transformation they were forced to adopt in just one generation.

A controversial Danish experiment in the early 1960s closed many outlying villages and primitive settlements and forced thousands of people into Nuuk. Many ended up in "Blok P", a soulless high-rise housing development. Unable to cope with the psychological switch from a hunting, fishing, bartering existence to the cramped conditions of flat-dwelling and wage-earning shift work in the fish factories or social welfare, they turned to alcohol and other forms of escape.

Aqqaluk Lynge, a leading figure in the movement for Eskimo rights, sums up the loss of identity suffered by indigenous men in particular as "a human disaster". Long dark winters and short bursts of summer when the sun hardly goes down, were easier for indigenous people to cope with when they were hunting and fishing in harmony with the seasons.

This loss of a traditional role for a deeply proud self-sufficient people is blamed for a suicide rate which has increased steadily to the point where a week does not pass without a hanging or a shooting. "The transformation of the society is too fast for some and not fast enough to meet the expectations of others," according to a polar epidemiologist, Peter Bjerregaard, who has carried out exhaustive research into the high mortality rates in Greenland.

Although it sometimes goes hand-in-hand with heavy drinking, suicide is rarely associated with clinical de-

Sexual behaviour is described as 'high risk' in the capital

pression. "Young men hang or shoot themselves when they believe they no longer have a useful role. It is not a cry for help. In the old days people would go up into the mountains to die if they believed they had no role in the community," says Mikaela Engell.

Lung cancer and other health problems, meanwhile, are exacerbated by high tobacco consumption. Eighty per cent of the population smoke. Heart disease has increased with the encroachment of processed foods into the traditional whale and seal meat diet.

The Greenland administration, which won home rule from Denmark in 1979, has been tackling the problems with an impressively frank and open attitude.

Jonathan Motzfeldt, the Premier, himself went public some years ago to announce he was checking into a drying-out clinic and this is thought to have been a big factor in helping others to mend their ways. People were deeply suspicious of Alcoholics Anonymous at first but it is slowly gaining a foothold and police chief Jorgen Meyer says there has been a steady fall in the violent crime rate as educational levels improve. "We have empty spaces in the prison," he says.

But dealing with HIV will require a cultural transformation which has not even begun. Health minister Marianne Jensen has ordered the setting-up of a telephone help line next month to offer counselling. Condoms are to be given out free and safe sex leaflets distributed. Nuuk's overstretched doctors are hoping it is not too late.

Medical care is free and the drug therapy available at Queen Ingrid's is now on a par with that in Denmark, but doctors have experienced huge difficulties in tracking down potential HIV-positives because of the particular social group involved and their "relaxed" sexual habits.

"We are talking about a group where to have multiple sexual partners is common," Morten Wintherik says, adding: "Partner notification and testing should be the biggest weapon in stalling the spread but it is not easy here."

While the known cases are, by and large, confined to the street drinkers, an identifiable group of unemployed homeless alcoholics aged between 40 and 50, the fear is that huge swathes of younger Greenlanders for whom casual sex is a way of life, could be wiped out by the disease spread.

Sexual behaviour in the capital is described by Dr Wintherik as "high risk". Saturday nights in Nuuk are

almost a tourist attraction, such is the intensity of the nightlife and the scale of alcohol consumption.

"Everyone drinks, you can't go anywhere, so you party," says Inga Kassor, a young reporter at KNR, the local broadcaster.

But it is not far from Nuuk's watering holes to the graveyard. The community buried its latest victim of Aids last week. Jakob, a 35 year old man was infected in Copenhagen and came home to die. He was what those studying the disease in Greenland call an "import". He did not match the typical profile. For a start he was younger than most of those infected here.

By contrast, Pitur, who learned he was HIV-positive a few months ago, is 46, and some sufferers are even older. The oldest known case is a 59-year-old man.

Like most of Greenland's HIV positives, Pitur is unmarried but heterosexual. There is no gay commu-

nity in Greenland and most homosexuals go to live in Denmark anyway. He hangs around Nuuk with a group of drinking pals in which the virus is endemic. Pitur was only remotely acquainted with HIV when he showed up at the "Sana" (sanatorium) complaining of persistent symptoms of what he thought was flu. He was coughing, had lost weight and was showing eczema-like skin eruptions.

Testing for HIV is almost routine now in Nuuk and the suspicions were quickly confirmed. But Pitur's initial sense of shock and shame have passed. He hardly seems to care. "I have many problems," he says. Alcohol is expensive but he drinks heavily, stocking up at the supermarket when he has money. He is weary of blood tests so does not always bother to show up for check-ups. Is he practising safe sex now? "Sometimes," he says.

Pitur's reactions are typical. He

has probably not altered his behaviour. And he will not become dependent on the medical system until he is in the chronic final stages of Aids. He laughs at the idea of support groups or counselling or even telling members of his family in south Greenland: Inuit men do not talk about their feelings.

This silence about HIV in Greenland is part of the problem says Morten Wintherik. "HIV is a very ugly affliction but we have got to start thinking about it like any other infectious disease." He wants to see research into why it develops more rapidly here (in one case it took just six months from diagnosis to full-blown Aids) to establish whether it is the same virus which is being cloned and whether there is any predisposition which makes Inuits more susceptible. "If we could identify it then we would know if new cases were the same."

Annual alcohol intake, although

significantly down on the levels it rose to during the Eighties, is still high and Greenlanders themselves admit their tendency towards hedonistic and self-destructive behaviour.

"This is a cultural trait. We are guided by instant gratification," admits Mikaela Engell, a senior health official at the home rule government.

Sexually-transmitted diseases such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea are common even among the young, and the abortion rate of one in every two pregnancies confirms the suspicion of Gunnar Palisgaarde, Greenland's chief medical officer, that "nobody uses condoms".

Doctors here agree the spread of HIV is exclusively heterosexual in contrast to other Eskimo communities, for example in Canada where intravenous drug use is the main HIV transmission route.

"I have both men and women dying of Aids in my department. This

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# No time to look back in anger



Photograph: Rui Xavier

THE Northern Line train is lurching so badly – I feel like a swimmer doing his valiant best inside an upset stomach – that I can scarcely concentrate upon the book in hand: 1968 – *Marching in the Streets* by that veteran street-fighting man, Tariq Ali. I'm on my way to a bruising confrontation with the man himself at the British Library, and I need to know whether he's the same as he's always been. It would be convenient if he were. No extra thinking would be required.

Then, to my great relief, the train stops as if it's hit a wall, and someone half-apologises in a tiny, tiny, South London voice for the fact that the Waterloo spur is blocked for a while. An *Evening Standard* smashes and stiffens opposite, but I'm happy enough because I can now put in a bit of quality reading time. This book is a month-by-month chronicle of that much re-cycled year, and I'm looking out for facts that I missed the first time around. It's the facts we go for with Ali, not so much the woeeful descriptive flourishes.

Here's one, for example: Brezhnev was "A cold, grey, lecherous creature... after being felled by a female employee, he returned, sated, to his apartment." Was he really grey then? I'm wondering. I'd always thought it was the quality of Sheffield television sets in those years. Ducking under the curious portulacis affair of the Library entrance, a man in a business suit spots my book and smiles at me as if we are already halfway down the difficult road to a truly lasting friendship. "You've brought a copy

In the Sixties Tariq Ali was the scourge of the Establishment, but he isn't finished yet. By Michael Glover

to be signed?" he says. I tell him I never get books signed because I hate them being defaced.

"They do say that an unsigned copy of Ted Heath's Memoirs is the thing to invest in!"

I walk up the marble stairs, leaving him to chortle at his absurd exclamation mark, and then into the auditorium itself. It's a bit like a happy playroom in here – the shocking red banked seats; the comfortable, hysteria-blue carpeting; and that huge, circular, Titanically-ambitious porthole window through which I can see the London cloudscape happily swimming by.

In front of that window I spot an early arrival, the terribly severe looking elderly man in a wheelchair, black bag clasped to his knees as if thieves lurk in the most reputable of auditoria. From somewhere fairly far away, I can hear the sound of *Junie* Hendrix fony-ladying away. A sensitive *Sideways* touch on the part of the organisers, but Jimi surely deserved a better sound system than this.

In the centre of the stage a copy of Tariq's book stands open on its own tiny velvet podium, an object fit for adoration whether read or not. Behind that podium, two proud, good quality leather armchairs square up to each other. To the right of the stage is the lectern from which he will give of his all. It resembles a bolt-upright scroll of brown, corrugated paper. All of a

sudden, a terrible noise rends the air – like the grinding of teeth magnified about 100 times. The great porthole window has gone dark. The man in the wheelchair now sits in the shadow of his sombre mood.

After a small altercation with his shoulder bag, conducted entirely at floor level, Tariq makes it on to the stage. He looks as handsome as ever – square-jawed, toothbrush moustachioed, and with that same pleasingly unruly mop of hair, though greying now. He sounds infinitely patient when he speaks of the legacy of the Sixties – as if

**'The world is crying out to be re-made. It was not just a matter of sex'n'drugs'n'rock'n'roll. Those strikes of '72 and '74 shook the ruling classes to the core.'**

he's been kicked around the lecture floor so often that nothing can touch his fixed opinions now. He is beyond all that we might do to him because, well, he was there...

This is the man who was once demonised by the *Daily Mail* as a dangerous leftie, and, even worse, a foreigner masquerading as a student.

But when he speaks to us tonight he sounds like some suave, ageing, infinitely gentle, infinitely forgiving pedagogue.

"They do say that with age comes wisdom and repentance," he begins. He rips off his spectacles and squints up into the air. "I for one have never believed in repentance in any religious sense, not being a believer myself... But what interests me more is how much hatred there still exists for this decade. I was, for example, astonished by Bryan Appleyard's two-page diatribe in *Murdoch's Sunday Times*. Why is there such bile, such a lack of generosity? I shall tell you why. Because there is a vacuum in that man's life, a lack

albeit indirectly, for a little sympathy or not?

Then he begins to harangue us a bit more intemperately – it was the only time in this century's history when a whole generation was inspired by the struggles of one small country against the evil might of Uncle Sam. "The world is crying out to be re-made! It was not just a matter of sex'n'drugs'n'rock'n'roll! Those strikes of '72 and '74 shook the ruling classes to the core!" he jabs out towards the blue velvet curtain at the back of the stage as if suspecting some hidden presence.

"The Queen was genuinely worried that the miners would bring down the country, but Macmillan, the old magician, was much more prescient. 'Do not forget, Ma'am, that this is England,' he told her, 'and in England the pendulum moves very slowly to the left, and then very slowly to the right again.'"

The audience listens respectfully, though mutedly, as if they are neither greatly pleased nor greatly displeased by his words. It only cost £4 after all.

He's sort of famous in his way. All the more shocking then when question time comes, and just as Tariq had predicted, the hile begins to gush in a quite spectacularly unexpected fashion. First off comes a furiously attacking speech, as viciously heartfelt as could ever be imagined, from the man in the wheelchair, who has

evidently been honing his phrases since the day before yesterday.

"I have never been sure whether you are ingenious or disingenuous," he begins with casual mockery. "What I am convinced of is that this is the worst book I've ever read on such a subject, full of the most appalling historical mistakes, and I shall say so in my review!" Tariq, seated now, looks back at him forgivingly and, replies with an easy charm. "I'm really touched you felt obliged to come and say these things. And I am, of course, really upset that you wasted your money on it. I hope you got it from the library..."

"It was a review copy," sniffs his antagonist, miffed that he has to make the same point twice over.

"May I ask which publication you are reviewing it for?"

"I'm not saying."

As we stream out of the lecture hall, I tap the reviewer on the shoulder and ask him the same question. *I'm curious too. Who wouldn't be?*

"The Times Higher Educational Supplement," he replies, rolling every word around his mouth.

It's a knock-out blow – as he guessed it would be. Hours later, the awful truth of it suddenly strikes me between the eyes. The THES belongs to Mr Murdoch's cravv-a-hirelings, does it not? Tariq's greatest and most bilious living enemies.

So there is a dirty establishment nt conspiracy against him then. Everything that Tariq ever said was true.

## ROBERT HANKS' WEEK IN RADIO

IT SEEMS like only yesterday that Colin Wilson was doing the chat-show circuit to publicise his last investigation into the paranormal – as I recall, it was to do with ancient Egyptians building the pyramids through collective mind-power – yet already he's back with a book about UFOs.

Wilson claims that there is overwhelming evidence that people are constantly being abducted by aliens – though he does not think we should be alarmed: these are friendly aliens helping to "midwife" us into our next stage of evolution.

On Wednesday morning he was putting his case to John Humphrys on *Today* – not that the programme has in any sense gone downmarket, goodness me no – and in the evening he was more in his element, taking calls as James Whale's guest on *Talk Radio*. The most arresting contribution came from Marjorie, a psychic who had apparently turned down invitations to join the Government, and seen Satan descending to earth during a storm. Whale finally lost patience with her because, he said: "Every time you open your mouth a cliché comes out."

But what was interesting and even touching about this programme was the way callers were ready to be convinced by Wilson: their urge to believe in something extraordinary. The reason I mention this is that I have embarked on a grand intellectual

project: I am attempting to reconcile Radio 4 comedies with the reactions of studio audiences – to find some explanation of why they laugh. There has been a lot of material to work with this week, what with the return of *Goodness Gracious Me* and *The Cheese Shop Presents...*, *The Bunter Factor*, and the debut of *The Alan Davies Show* (Radio 4, Wednesday).

Let's take Alan Davies. He has grasped one of humour's fundamental rules: the word "pooh" is not funny in itself – having it constantly repeated is. The first episode of this sitcom included several pleasant moments (an impression of an asthmatic dog and a headmaster's answerphone: "Speak up, don't mumble, after the tone"). But overall it was lazily predictable; one plot-line involved an art-dealer prepared to pay thousands of pounds for paintings by seven-year-olds; elsewhere, Alan's friend Murray won't get in the bath because the theme from *Jaws* is on the radio – when he decides to take a shower, well, just have a wild stab at what movie theme starts playing.

Yet the audience go crazy. The only thing I can think is that it's the same as Colin Wilson: people need to believe that something extraordinary is going on. They watch Alan Davies and persuade themselves they're seeing a visitor from another star.

But it's just a mess of moonlight and marsh-gas.

## DAVID LISTER'S ARTS DIARY

THE Edinburgh Festival Fringe's decision to start a week earlier than the main Festival strikes me as a little bizarre. They say that in the third week "the weather is frequently not as pleasant." That is, not as pleasant as the rain of the first two weeks. Surely you have to be the fringe of something. And audiences like to have the variety of seeing main festival and fringe productions in the same evening.

But all credit to the Fringe office for a publication it issued this week on its 50-year history. Some of the memories contained in it cast an interesting light on figures who achieved fame at the Fringe.

Alistair Moffat, administrator from 1976-81, recalls taking the Cambridge Footlights out for a meal in 1981 and a young Emma Thompson "leaning very earnestly forward to say 'Alistair, I know that we're a group and the Fringe is awfully democratic and all that, but how do I get some personal publicity!'"

The saddest story comes from *The Independent's* own Miles Kingston who in 1963 was in an Oxford Revue show with Terry Jones. They went on to write together for a year until Jones told him: "I'm going to work with a bloke called Michael Palin." Kingston laments: "Only a year out of Oxford and my career as a future Python was over already."

What the Fringe really needs to

bring back its whiff of controversy is another Edinburgh councillor like John Kidd who in 1968 denounced all actors as "big Jessies" and rose to his feet in every production that offended him and sent for a policeman. They don't come like that any more.

FRANCIS MAUDE's elevation in the Shadow Cabinet from Culture spokesman to Shadow Chancellor was accompanied by a good deal of praise from commentators, noting that the shrewd and "streetwise" MP would keep Gordon Brown on his toes. I have to say I didn't notice much street wisdom from Mr Maude in his year shadowing Chris Smith. The attacks on Smith and Labour's policies came from sources as disparate as Sir Peter Hall and Jarvis Cocker, but virtually never from Francis Maude. Neither do I recall a single arts initiative from Mr Maude to compensate for his lack of opposition. Does anyone know where the Tories stand on museum admission charges, the Royal Opera House, the cut in Arts Council funding?

EQUITY has been as shaken as the country's pre-pubescent over the departure of Geri Halliwell from the Spice Girls. Now the tribute bands have to decide whether to become a foursome. The Geri lookalikes could face a period "resting", though they could apply to replace the real thing.

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# No fashion advice please, we're British

The Menswear Council says the average male should smarten up his image. But the average male already has, says Randeep Ramesh

CLOTHES do maketh the man. That's the message British males have yet to heed, according to the self-appointed Menswear Council.

So far as this organisation is concerned, British men lose their sartorial sense after they have settled down; they do not dress to impress at work and rarely match their European peers, who spend on average £500 a month (double the British male) on clothing.

According to the voice of the council, Chris Scott-Gray: "We have all watched *Blind Date*. They stand up there with their Polynesian shirts outside their flat-fronted trousers. You know we have a problem when men are proud of the fact they had a haircut for £5."

When it comes to compiling the list of Great Fashion Disasters, it is true that the British figure prominently. Recent tragedies include the twentysomethings who enthusiastically took up the tartan-trousered nerdishness of Chris Evans, another was the drain-piped Eighties chic of Burton and Top Man.

But times are changing. Take footballing fashion. For years, stars regularly scored own goals when it came to style. Many could happily forget the pink silk frock-coat worn by Gazza at his wedding, or the nasty Kevin Keegan perm.

But this tradition is not upheld by today's players. The Menswear Council's own list of the 10 best-dressed men in Britain features Arsenal star Iain Wright and Manchester United midfielder David Beckham. Last week the latter slung a £115 Gaultier silk sarong over his loose line trousers when strolling out with girlfriend Victoria Adams - aka Posh Spice. Some

sniggered, but Beckham was unperturbed.

Increasingly, men consider style as important as substance. Ten years ago, the men's magazine market consisted mainly of US editions of *GQ* and *Esquire* - which struggled to sell more than 50,000 copies. Last year *FHM*, whose mix of near-naked women and stylishly attired men, shifted more than 500,000 units - overtaking *Cosmopolitan*.

The profession of men's media has been matched in the high street. The shopping arcades are stuffed with Paul Smith stores and lined with adverts for the American designer Tommy Hilfiger. Industry figures show that since 1992, the menswear industry has grown by nearly 30 per cent, to £3bn.

But despite that growth, stylish men do not feel compelled to wander the streets dressed in the latest designer clothing.

Lawrence Dellaglio, England's bulky rugby captain, is typical. Dressed in lumberjack shirt and chinos, Dellaglio explains: "Most of the time I am in sporting gear, but when I go out I make an effort. But my wardrobe has got stuff from Marks & Spencer as well as Ralph Lauren. It is about looking good, not about spending lots of money."

When it comes to toiletries, British men are making more of an effort than before, with the average man spending £26 a year on after-shave, moisturiser and body sprays. Two years ago, *Men's Health* magazine claimed that three-quarters of men were exercised about their physical shape.

This is not to say that the Menswear Council's message is unimportant - it is just that for a lot

of men they have heard and acted upon it long ago.

Male couture has a long history - albeit one marked by dodgy wigs, make-up and tights. That dandified parade of men's fashion which lingered in pre-industrial Britain had its roots in narcissism. For today's men, the main motivation to dress well lies in professional acceptance. The rationale seems to be that women's emancipation has made looking good in the office acceptable, so why should this not be extended to men?

The council parades such phrases as "dress like the manager who wants to be", but in reality the plethora of names like T M Lewin, Thomas Pink and Oswald Boateng show that men will consider shelling out on a suit and shirt that looks as good on the catwalk as it does in the office.

Alan Hansen, who attended the launch of the council in a Daks dark grey suit, with lilac shirt and silver tie, spends "more on clothes now than as a young lad". The former footballer, who now comments on the sport said: "My wife still chooses them - mainly because I have got a 44-inch chest and long body which means a lot of jackets ride too high. But I have to do it. In my line of work, I have to look good."

This kind of talk from Hansen - once one of Liverpool's self-styled hard men on the pitch - should not surprise anyone. The image-makers around Tony Blair fret about his crooked teeth, his receding hair and the cut of his clothes. It is not that the Prime Minister - who the Menswear Council also place in its top 10 - needs an entourage of courtiers to fawn over his presence, just that he recognises that the packaging is as important as the policy.



Alan Hansen and Lawrence Dellaglio mix designer and high street labels

Photograph: Rul Xavier

## DO MEN MEASURE UP?

Oswald Boateng, Savile Row tailor

"It's good to know that there will be a council specifically for men and I hope it will bring them into the limelight again."

"This council shows that they are starting to realise menswear is big in this country, especially suits - that is undisputed, and it's about time someone got behind it. The main thing is how people are wearing their clothes, whether they are enjoying them. You don't need money to have style."

Hanni Huesch, UK correspondent for German TV station ARD

"Thank God, they are doing something to get British men to dress better. On average, I think German men are slightly better dressed than the British, but not when it comes to casual clothes. I think a lot depends on what people do as to how well dressed they are."

Chris Sullivan, style editor of mens' magazine *GQ*

"Any means of making British men dress better is welcome, but I don't know how much effect it will have as they are pretty recalcitrant."

"What you wear affects your success at work and with women. I do feel though, that more and more men are realising that it affects how seriously they are taken. Overall, education relies on experience, and men have got to go and find out what works."

Philip Warren, curator at archive of clothes from high street chain Next

"In a way, the idea strikes me as a panic move. I think the attempt to create a Menswear Council shows that nobody in Britain has a real grip or handle on the market. But we've got a great fashion tradition in Britain, our designers are attractive to people from all over the world."

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## Girl Power goes out of fashion in Spiceworld

Geri's departure has failed to move the Spice Girls' fickle young fans. By Sophie Radice

THE day that Robbie Williams left Take That, teenage girls congregated outside a house in our street with blotchy, tear-streaked faces. A plump girl, who was obviously known locally as a major fan, stood on her doorstep sobbing, her room lit-up against the evening sky above her with smiling posters of the doomed boy-band.

It was difficult not to smirk with adult cynicism when I asked them if they were all right, and words like "abandonment", "loneliness" and "betrayal" tripped off their tongues as easily as in a Hollywood group therapy session. Later that evening, my sister reminded me of how we had cried in primary school when Les left the Bay City Rollers. Just as we knew then, these Take That girls understood that it effectively meant the end of their favourite group, and telephone helplines opened up to deal with the wave of teen-grief that swept the nation.

Parents' hearts sunk in anticipation of a similar reaction to last week's announcement of Geri Halliwell's departure from the Spice Girls, and the question mark that must hang over the band's future, whatever the remaining members might say to the contrary.

My own three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, whose bedroom was full of pictures of the five-piece, and who became the nation's youngest stalker when she found out that Scary Spice lived opposite her grandmother, gave an irritated reply when I



Can Geri's shoes be filled?

Photograph: Tony Stone

told her about Geri - "Mummy, I don't really know the Spice Girls anymore, do I?"

Thinking perhaps that she is too young to fully understand, and knowing that because she actually saw them a couple of times in real life she regarded them as close personal friends rather than pop icons, I turned to my seven-year-old son's female contemporaries.

They have spent the last 18 months in a shiny, Lycra-clad Spiceworld. My son's friend Etta had a Spice Girls party only a couple of months ago, much to his disgust, (he and the only other boy invited dug a huge hole in the lawn) at which girls dressed up as their favourite Spice.

"We don't care if they split

up. We like All Saints and Cleopatra now. The Spice Girls are not girls anyway. They should be called the Spice Women or the Spice Old Ladies," said Etta, contemptuously. At this, her friend Bella seemed embarrassed of her pink Spice Girls hunchbox and started swinging it around and hitting the other girls with it.

What about their potential, I asked. After all, surely they had so much more to give than two albums? And what about the economic implications of cancelling a world tour? And what were they going to do with their Spice Girl duvet covers and pillow cases now?

The girls looked at me blankly and one of them asked

politely if I can "stop talking about it now, please?". They started singing "Cleopatra, coming at yer" and I walked away muttering to myself about the fickleness of extreme youth.

Their love of the Spice Girls was completely genuine and devoted while it lasted, but unlike the older girl fan-base of Take That, it was not dominated by a freshly awakened hormonal longing and safety-unrequited desire.

The simple message of "Girl Power" caught the mood of the classroom, where (as parents of boys are constantly reminded by worrying little leaflets saying things like "Has the lad culture destroyed your son's future?") boys are struggling to keep up with ambitious, conscientious, confident girls. The Spice Girls were gloriously and fabulously tart in their faux animal skins and platform trainers and will be remembered for being the brashest and braggiest of them all.

Seeing the Spice Girls a month or so ago on *TFI Friday* they didn't seem to have much to say, except the usual declarations of sisterly love and feelings of best friendship for each other. Now we know that to be a bit of a sham, it is difficult to see how they can possibly try and continue.

The remaining Spice Girls should retire gracefully many millions richer, while the mothers of young daughters throughout the country take down their daughters' posters to make room for the new ones (maybe saving one for posterity so they can laugh about it together in a few years' time), chuck last Christmas's Spice Girls dolls in the box under the bed, along with the Tellytubbies, Buzz Lightyears and Power Rangers that are brought out occasionally to play with Barbie, the enduring Queen of so many little girls' hearts.

هكذا من الأصل



Nearly half of medical graduates are women, yet hardly any choose surgery as a career. Why is the operating theatre still a man's world? By **Jack O'Sullivan**

Another female surgeon, of above average ability, who inexorably missed out on becoming a



But a few women do succeed, although there are many obstacles to

general surgery. The deal had been

These days, the flexible training contract that Miss Ackroyd used is much more commonplace. Dr Paice, at north Thames has struggled hard

And by the way, Miss Ackroyd may have difficulties staying in a good

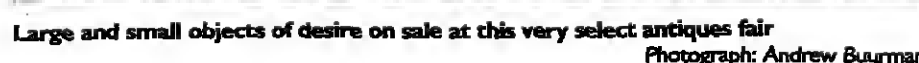
Nevertheless, Miss Ackroyd is optimistic. The time it takes to become a consultant has halved in recent years. She, along with her fellow pioneers are planning to establish a mentoring system for would-be female surgeons. The future, she says, in spite of everything, is bright for women who want to wield the knife. Just don't expect it to be easy.

You'll need deep pockets to afford most of the items on sale at the Olympia Fine Arts and Antiques Fair – or you could just go window shopping. By **Nicole Veash**

"There is a lot of psychology involved in selling antiques," he says. "That's why we've got

Huge amounts of money changes hand at this *crème de la crème* of antique fairs, but for window shoppers keen to glimpse another, more refined past world, the atmosphere remains relaxed.

The current apple of Edric's eye is a collection of 18th and 19th-century beetles preserved in 40 glass boxes and making a startling if slightly disconcerting wall display, if you have £18,000 to spare. "I've been



"Will you excuse me a second," says Edric leaving me to finger a pair of horn cups, "I'm just going to have a word with one of the wealthiest men in the

But there is another side to the market. Robert Pugh is a ruddy-faced Welshman specialising in a native farmhouse look. "No," he says, "most of our wares are not bought by the Welsh, they are not big on the distressed farmhouse look."

*The Olympia Fine Arts and Antiques Fair is open until 14 June. For more information, call 0171 370 8186.*

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## Off-message on student loans

PERHAPS the worst aspect of the Government's handling of the student finance issue is its failure to get the message across: students will not have to pay back their debt unless and until they can afford to do so. This failure is strange in a government so obsessed with presentation. David Blunkett should have hammered home one simple point: graduates earn more. Two conclusions follow. One: why should non-graduates, who are generally poorer, pay through their taxes for graduates' education? And two: it is in everyone's interest to go to university if they have the ability – and this remains the case when they have to pay for it, especially if they are offered the no-lose proposition of a soft loan.

That is why next week's threatened revolt by Labour MPs against the Higher Education Bill is misguided and unjustified. The principle of the Government's reform is sound, but the case simply has not been made, either to MPs or to the general public. The rebels claim to be defending two linked ideals: equality and free education. As for equality, how can it be justified that £8bn a year of public money should be spent on a minority of the population which is overwhelmingly the richest and most privileged part? The invocation of the ideal of free education – bracketed by Tony Benn with a free health service – is a simple category error. Free education is egalitarian to the extent that it is universal: higher education by definition is not, it is elitist. The argument that access to university is theoretically open to everyone, on the basis of ability, is precisely the bogus notion of equality of opportunity which, in other contexts, Mr Benn would deride.

That said, the Government's proposals are flawed and incoherent – but only because they depart from the foregoing principles. In order to reduce the cost of the proposals of the Dearing Committee, the Government made two changes. Dearing recommended that a flat-rate grant to cover living expenses should continue to be paid to all students, to be topped up with loans. The Government decided to abolish grants – half this year and the rest next – and put the whole burden on to loans. That was sensible. But the Government also decided to require tuition fees to be paid up-front, with an exemption for students whose parents have low incomes, instead of also being loaded on to loans. Roughly one third will have to pay the full £1,000 a year; one third will pay less on a sliding scale; and one third will be exempt. This means students will continue to be means-tested on the basis of their parents' income, which is wrong in principle. At 18, people should not be forced to rely on parental support, which in some cases may not be forthcoming. Students should only be means-tested on the basis of their own future income, through the loan scheme.

The Labour rebels are missing the point, then, and comparisons with last year's rebellion over cuts in lone parent benefit are an insult to lone parents. But the Government should have had the courage of its convictions and ensured that the cost of expanding higher education is met by those who benefit from it – and not by the parents of those who might.

## 'Conspiracies' and national icons

IT SEEMS that Diana, Princess of Wales is destined, sadly, to be as much the conspiracy theorists' princess as she was the people's. We should not be surprised about this. The conspiracy theories about the assassinations of John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King and the suicide of Marilyn Monroe all show how persistent this kind of speculation can be when an iconic figure dies unexpectedly. As the interminable investigations into the accident that killed Diana roll on towards the first anniversary of her death, the conspiracy talk can be expected to intensify.

In the case of Diana there is one person who seems determined to stimulate the theorists' fertile imaginations. Mohamed Al Fayed has consistently raised questions about the circumstances of her death. His tenacity makes many observers feel queasy, for it appears to form just another stage in Mr Fayed's long battle with the establishment. Any weapon will do, it seems, even the death of his beloved son. But his theories would not get very far if they were not presented in a rather uncritical manner by parts of the media. The reasons for this, are not hard to find. "Putting Diana's face on the front" has always sold newspapers and magazines, even after her death. The claims and theories about her death, no matter how wild or fanciful, still attract readers and viewers. The grotesque documentary and studio discussion on ITV the other night will have attracted a respectable audience.

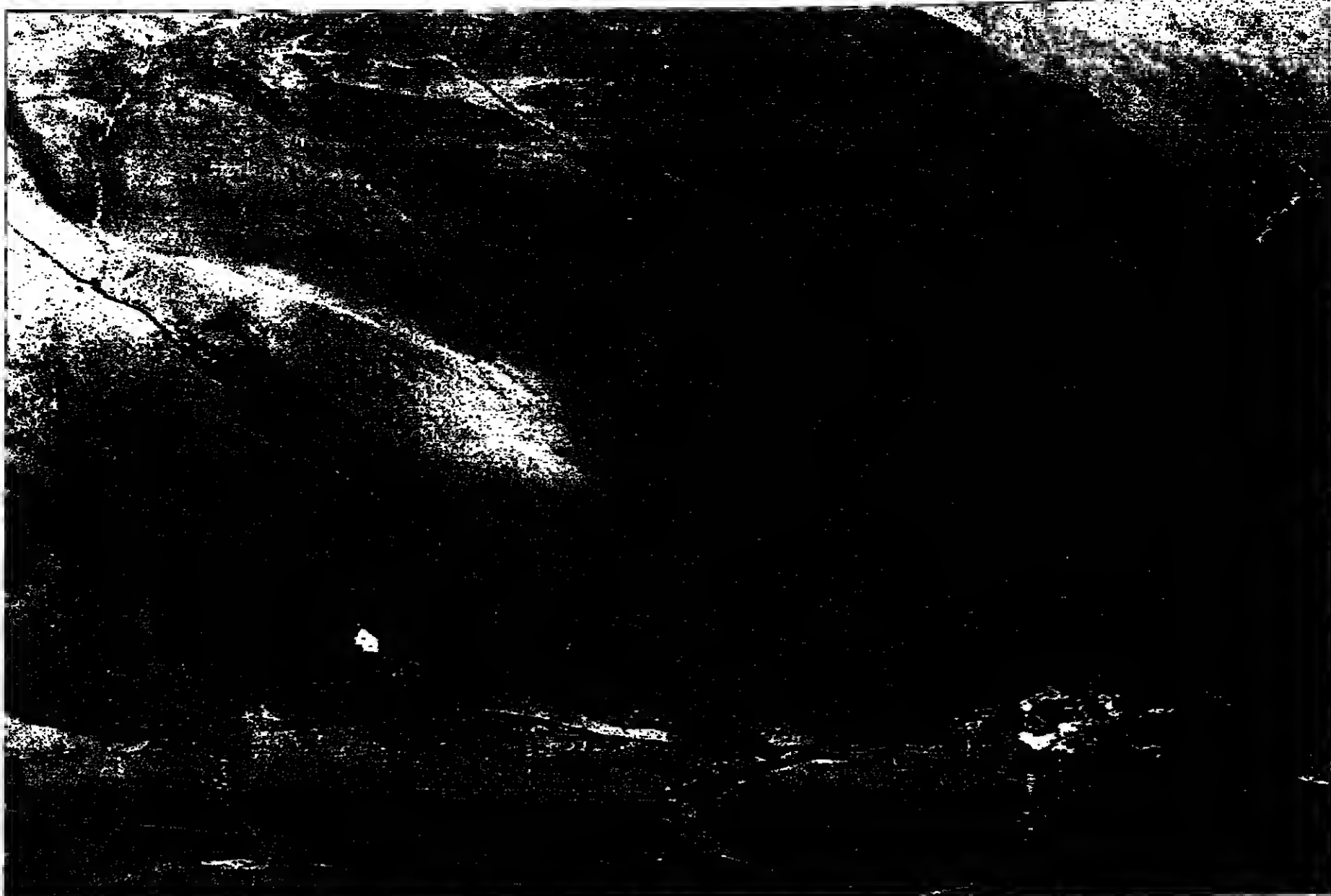
Those who defend these travesties argue that they satisfy a public demand. But do people really want the story of the life and death of Diana to be distorted by the ceaseless flow of speculation? There will, of course,



always be a fringe prepared to believe that Buckingham Palace or Tony Blair or, perhaps, aliens ordered her execution. But the vast majority of people have by now come to terms with the – accidental – circumstances of her death. They have entertained the theories about flashguns and carbon monoxide only to dismiss them. They know that Diana's driver had taken nearly three times the permitted level of alcohol. He was not qualified as a chauffeur and the car crashed at 90 to 100mph. It would have been impossible for any would-be assassin to know the movements of Diana's party that night. Who could possibly have planned to ram the Mercedes at that time? With a Fiat Uno? The main imponderable about the Paris car crash is whether Diana would still be alive today if she had worn her seat belt.

It would be easy to dismiss the theories as just so much froth, journalistic junk food, pointless but harmless. But conspiracy theories are dangerous. They grow and grow until the gossip upon which they are built is passed off as truth. The shot from the grassy knoll that allegedly killed President Kennedy and the white Fiat Uno that supposedly hit Diana's car are already half-way to being accepted as facts. One has only to think of the Communist conspiracy that gave us the McCarthy era or the Nazis' so-called "international Jewish conspiracy" to know how they can matter.

Conspiracy theories are sometimes dangerous, mostly pernicious and always morbid. They should be treated as such at all times.



Tranquil battlefield: the Lakeland landscape is a magnet for second-home owners. See letters below right

Photograph: David Hughes

### Fawning MPs

Sir: Three cheers for Andrew Mackinlay and his criticism of the whips' "pervasive control" of Labour MPs.

I have long wondered what possible use was served by those braying voices of Conservative Members of Parliament who used to compete to ask the most fatuous question of the day. I remember reading a copy of *Hansard* from the Second World War. Members were then asking real questions about real people and matters of public concern. And they received answers.

Michael Brown has explained in your paper how the present practice arose. Tony Blair was elected in the belief that he would change old and bad practices. As it is, I am reminded of the last chapter of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, when the animals watching outside could no longer differentiate between the visiting humans and the pigs.

ALAN FORGAN  
Guldford, Surrey

Sir: Am I the only person not surprised by the Government's methodical renegeing on its election pledges? As Charles Dickens wrote in *Little Dorrit*: "It is true that every new premier and every new government, coming in because they had upheld a certain thing as necessary to be done, were no sooner come in than they applied their utmost faculties to discovering how not to do it."

ANNE LEWIS  
London SW15

### Pharmaceutical threat

Sir: I see that the pharmaceutical industry is – yet again – threatening to pull out of Britain if the Government requires it to publish more information ("Ministers launch war on drug prices", 3 June).

The industry has a long tradition of over-reacting to modest proposals. In 1993, a new public right of access to information about drug safety was proposed in a private member's Bill: disclosure, of such information by the licensing authority was (and still is) a criminal offence. The British Pharma Group, a trade body representing the leading research companies, warned that unless one particular provision was removed, their members would no longer seek to launch their products in the UK "but apply to other EC licensing authorities instead". In an effort to address their concerns, the Bill's sponsor, Giles Radice MP, withdrew the clause. To everyone's astonishment the British Pharma Group responded in even more hysterical terms, warning that the revised Bill would "weaken real and lasting damage to the industry" and mean that "companies would probably simply cease to use" the UK licensing system. It appeared that, whatever the proposal, the industry had only one response.

Now ministers propose to ask for more information about the cost-effectiveness of NHS drugs. You quote an industry spokesman's reaction: "Many companies might be looking at whether their research is correctly based in this country." I hope ministers will recognise that going over the top is the pharmaceutical industry's routine response to change.

MAURICE FRANKEL  
Director  
The Campaign for Freedom of Information  
London EC1

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Lottery victims

Sir: Your leading article "National Lottery fever needs to be calmed" (3 June) is to be welcomed. Gambling, by its very nature, encourages those who take part to exaggerate the likelihood of winning at the expense of the probability of losing. The promoters encourage such notions and the media collude by publicising the few winners. The result is the chasing of losses by punters.

It is for these reasons that the public policy of providing gambling on the basis of unstimulated demand was so effective. When it was still being implemented, there were more gambling facilities in Britain than any other European country and they were more diverse. Yet the casualties were relatively few.

The irresponsible approach of the last government, which treated gambling as just another marketable commodity, undermined this policy. In the present climate of stimulation, the idea that education will prevent excessive gambling is unrealistic. Indeed, such notions now largely stem from the promoters, in a cynical attempt to present a semblance of social responsibility.

DR E MORAN  
Consultant Psychiatrist  
Chairman, the National Council on Gambling  
London N14

### Lessons for Indonesia

Sir: Like Paul Barber (letter, 2 June) I am appalled by the abuses of human rights perpetrated by the Indonesian armed forces. And like D F Hagger (letter, 2 June) I deplore the way in which army personnel are *dikaryakan*, the Indonesian term for the placing of military men in bureaucratic positions – a process, incidentally, begun under Sukarno in the 1950s and not initiated by Suharto.

Both correspondents, however, fail to engage with the arguments of those with considerable experience of Indonesia who recognise that within the armed forces there is good as well as bad, and that every attempt should be made through teaching fora, such as the Centre for Security Studies at Hull University, to expose Indonesian officers to a tradition of open debate. By doing

this one hopes to give encouragement to those who are men of principle and who are trying to persuade their colleagues round to understanding and working for democratic freedoms.

The point is very similar to that made in relation to the Northern Ireland peace negotiations. While the extremist actions in the past of those who were represented in the negotiations were regarded by most of us with abhorrence it was generally accepted that there needed to be some move towards dialogue. It was only those like the Rev Ian Paisley who refused to sit down with those whom he regarded as murderers.

DR C W WATSON  
Department of Anthropology  
Eliot College  
University of Kent at Canterbury



J M Synge, Irish playwright

### The real Synge

Sir: John Walsh's article "The craggy home of the playboy of the western world" (28 May) was accompanied by a picture purporting to be of John Millington Synge. In fact this picture was taken of an islander by John Millington Synge.

RICHARD SYNGE  
Cambridge

### Case for Kenya

Sir: The picture and caption with Mary Braid's article "Moi stirs up Kenya's tribal strife" (30 May) are misleading in claiming that 19 people were killed in ethnic violence in Siyoli on 29 May. No such violence and deaths took place on that day. President Moi had foreseen that

multiparty democracy may divide Kenyans along ethnic lines and in exercising his freedom of expression warned Kenyans about it. This unfortunately has turned out to be the case. He however accepted the eventuality and won two elections under it. Blaming him for warning Kenyans of the possible negative effects of a multiparty system shows a failure to appreciate the contextual differences in the application and result of the system.

It appears Mary Braid has been paying too much attention to some ethnic as opposed to broadly based non-governmental organisations, otherwise she would have obtained the views of other communities involved and also known of the current police/army operation to disarm the Pokots and Marakwets. Throughout his vice-presidency and presidency, Moi has been consistent in calling for the unity and peaceful co-existence of all Kenyan communities and faulting him on this is unfair and only serves selfish ends.

MWANYENGELA NGALI  
High Commissioner  
Kenya High Commission  
London W1

### Secular babies

Sir: There is nothing new or strange about non-religious naming ceremonies for children (Comment, 26 May; letter, 1 June). The Baby Naming Society, formed in 1994, is following work done for some time by the British Humanist Association; the BHA published Jane Wynne Wilson's booklet, *New Arrivals*, in 1991, and the nationwide Humanist Ceremonies Network provides naming ceremonies as well as non-religious weddings and funerals.

Moreover, the BHA has been following work done for a long time by the freethought movement; the Ethical Church produced a ceremony for the "Recognition and Dedication of Children" in 1913, and the National Secular Society produced a ceremony for the "Naming of Infants" as long ago as 1868. Anyway, millions of ordinary people have been conducting their own private ceremonies for centuries.

NICOLAS WALTER  
Rationalist Press Association  
London N1

### Countryside in peril

Sir: Some, like Henry Harington (letter, 30 May), may have reasons for keeping a second home which they visit from time to time, but in his objections to taxing of second homes he misses the point: first homes must take priority over second homes.

To accuse South Lakeland District Council of Nimbysism is also wide of the mark – we have gone to great lengths (and expense) to overcome the Nimbys in order to provide affordable housing for local people. As councillors here can tell you the problem is not so much residents' opposing planning permission. It is the people with second homes who are quick to object to affordable housing for locals.

Their letters come from all parts of the county, indeed the world, and sometimes betray contempt for the people who want to continue to live in their own communities. Typical was this gem: "My house is empty for most of the year. The type of person who wants to live in such [affordable] housing would be likely to vandalise or hurlge my property."

The attempt to make second-home owners pay for the harm they do is not a case of Nimbysism but it should mean that there are fewer Nimbys (not in my other back yard).

STAN COLLINS  
Chair, Finance and General Purposes  
South Lakeland District Council  
Kendal, Cumbria

Sir: The leading article of 1 June ("Make second-home owners pay up") denigrated rural people by implying they should adopt a modern-day servitude and embrace low-paid service jobs, pandering to the needs of wealthy incomers.

Yes, people have the right to live and work where they choose, but forcing hardworking local people out of the towns and villages they grew up in to make way for absentee owners has torn the soul out of communities the length and breadth of Britain.

If we continue to pursue the "let them pay" principle then rural Britain will stagnate – a place where the elderly come to die and the wealthy urban élite unwind at weekends. The alternative is to create a vibrant countryside where the young feel they not only have a future but are welcome in their own communities.

J S DOYLE  
Sherborne, Dorset

### Close calls

Sir: I once worked in a call-centre (report, 2 June; letter, 4 June), receiving calls on behalf of a building society's conversion to a plc. Despite lacking a financial background, call-handlers were expected to respond to complex share inquiries, often taking up to fifty calls in half an hour. They had just three days' training to learn scripts, the carefully provided answers mainly resulting in further confusion for the customer. You were persistently monitored and disciplined for deviation from the script.

SARAH ADAMCZUK  
Bristol

### It worked!

Sir: I write in support of Nicholas Pole (letter, 5 June). Having been sceptical about alternative medicine, I decided to take a course of Shiatsu for a cold. In just seven days, my cold was completely cured. Normally it hangs around for a week.

TONY NEWPORT  
Ship-on-under-Wychwood,  
Oxfordshire

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HOWARD  
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## Rolls-Royce falls into German hands

### Shareholders vote to accept £430m VW bid

By Michael Harrison

THE LUXURY car maker Rolls-Royce yesterday fell under German control after an 11th-hour attempt to keep the world famous marque in British hands failed.

Shareholders in Vickers, the parent company of Rolls, voted by a crushing majority to sell the company to Volkswagen for £430m, ending almost a century of British ownership of the Rolls-Royce and Bentley makes.

The vote followed a highly charged and emotional four-hour meeting which culminated in a desperate but unsuccessful scramble by a group of Rolls-Royce enthusiasts to assemble a rival bid for shareholders to consider.

The meeting in central London was adjourned at one stage for nearly an hour to enable Michael Shrimpton, chairman of the Crewe Motors consortium, to put details of his offer to the Vickers board and its financial advisers while shareholders went for coffee.

But after the unprecedented interruption - dubbed the "coffee break bid" - the Vickers chairman Sir Colin Chandler emerged to tell shareholders that the consortium had failed to convince him, either about the identity of its backers or its financing.

He also said that the consortium, though styled as a British rescuer, appeared to be dominated by foreign interests.

"We have listened to Mr Shrimpton on behalf of his foreign backers and the situation has not changed," added Sir Colin.

Mr Shrimpton, a 41-year-old barrister, arrived for the meeting at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster in his chauffeur-driven Bentley Turbo and was helped through the media scrum by his driver, Barrington Shaw. He said he had been working day and night with only six hours' sleep in the past week to assemble the bid and had access to £500m in a Zurich bank account and a further £2bn in accounts in the Bahamas and elsewhere in Switzerland.

Crewe Motors, he told shareholders, has tabled a £460m bid - £30m more than VW - at 3.30 on Thursday afternoon, since when it had been waiting for news and the arrival of couriers to authenticate its offer.

However, Sir Colin said that there was no certainty about the availability of funds, the identity of the backers and the time it would take to complete the offer. Dismissing the Crewe Motors bid as an "undignified scramble to raise money without any substance", Sir Colin urged shareholders to back the VW offer. "Any further delay will damage Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and you do not want that to happen."

The VW bid was then approved by a majority of 98 per cent. Of the 341m shares in circulation, 209.6m or 62 per cent were voted and of those only 2 per cent were against the sale to the German car-maker.

Small shareholders and Rolls-Royce fans did not go down without a fight, however. Peter Royce, the great-nephew of one of the



Michael Shrimpton, chairman of Crewe Motors, being helped through the media scrum by his chauffeur Barrington Shaw

company's two founders, Henry Royce, was present to witness his great uncle's company pass into foreign hands. "How can you possibly do a deal like this?" he asked Sir Colin. "This is Britain and we do not do things like this in Britain."

Another shareholder, Peter Torre, a certified Rolls-Royce chauffeur from Hendon, north London, said: "When I put my uniform on I am very proud that I am driving a unique piece of machinery. It is sad to see the marque pass out of British hands."

One shareholder said the marque would have to be re-

named the "Rollswagon", while another accused Vickers of "selling the birthright of British industry and all that goes with it."

The managing director of Rolls-Royce, Graham Morris, disclosed that he would have resigned if Crewe Motors had succeeded in buying the business. "Not because I am anti-British but because I am anti-job losses," he told shareholders.

Aloose among the almost exclusively British contingent of investors was one German shareholder, the general manager of BMW Alpine. He

urged the meeting to reject the bid from the "nouveau riche" VW and accept the rival but lower £340m offer from BMW. "Rolls-Royce and Bentley are simply the best of British tradition and they should join with an enterprise which is in a position to enlarge and preserve that heritage for Britain."

As soon as confirmation of the vote emerged, BMW said that ownership of Rolls-Royce was "no longer an issue" and confirmed it would cancel its contract to supply engines for the new Silver Seraph and Bentley Arnage. VW has

made provision for this by signing a deal to buy the engine manufacturer Cosworth from Vickers for a further £120m, a sale that will now go through.

The outcome of the eight-month battle for control of Rolls-Royce paves the way for a three-way fight between Germany's leading carmakers for ascendancy in the luxury car market. BMW intends to press ahead with the BMW 9 series - a competitor in the Bentley sector of the market - while Daimler-Benz is well-advanced with plans to launch a top-of-the-range car, the May-

bach. VW itself intends to launch a mid-sized Bentley in addition to the two-door Bentley and Rolls saloon range as part of its plans to quadruple output from Crewe to as much as 10,000 cars a year.

VW said last night that it had a deep respect for Rolls-Royce and intended to preserve the characteristics of craftsmanship and exclusivity for which the marque was famous. However, shareholders were not so certain. One forecast that VW would "destroy the brand image" of Rolls-Royce. Another said: "I would not lay a level pound on VW

keeping Rolls-Royce in Crewe."

As the meeting ended Sir Colin left a faint hope flickering for the Rolls enthusiasts by promising that if a higher offer emerged before the sale to VW was completed on 3 July which was credible and unconditional then it would be taken seriously.

But the die-hard fans knew the game was up. As Professor Donald Longmore, the distinguished consultant who is also attempting to assemble a British bid, observed: "Without the money, you are just a bag on wind."

### The end of an era

1906	Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost
1907	Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost
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1998	Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost

'Vickers is selling the birthright of British industry and all that goes with it'

## Bank of Ireland set to top Halifax's Midshires offer

By Andrew Verity

BANK of Ireland is poised to join the battle to buy Birmingham Midshires Building Society with a bid that will top the £780m already offered by the Halifax.

Executives from the £5.9bn bank are understood to have already held internal discussions about a bid - just days after Midshires was released from a £630m offer from Royal Bank of Scotland.

Sources said the bank was likely to approach Birmingham Midshires next week with a proposal for talks that could lead to a bidding war with the

Halifax and other interested parties.

Bank of Ireland is looking to expand its interests in the UK after successfully buying Bristol & West Building Society for £600m last July. It has explicitly stated its interest in further expansion into the UK mortgage market.

Pat Molloy, the bank's chief executive, confirmed at the bank's last results that a UK acquisition was on the cards. Asked whether he had any plans in the UK market, he replied: "While we have nothing specific in mind we would certainly be interested in expanding in the area of mortgages."



Mathewson: RBS demand

Ironically, the Irish bank has significant ties with Royal Bank of Scotland, which demanded a £5m payment after Midshires renegeed on a deal struck last Au-

gust to buy the society for £630m. After discussing the deal with George Mathewson, chief executive of RBS, Midshires agreed to pay a further £10m to RBS if the society was bought by the Halifax - but not if another bidder was successful.

Royal Bank of Scotland holds the majority stake in Citizens Financial Group, a bank based in New England on the eastern seaboard of the US. Bank of Ireland has a 23 per cent stake in Citizens. Both Dr Mathewson and Mr Molloy sit on the board of Citizens.

Halifax is expected to meet Midshires executives next week to discuss terms.

## American bid approach for Ushers

By Clifford German

USHERS of Trowbridge, the Wiltshire brewery sold off by Grand Metropolitan in 1991 as part of its merger deal with Courage, is the latest regional brewer to receive "an unsolicited approach which could lead to a bid". It follows within 24 hours of an approach to Vaux the Northeast brewery and hotels group.

Ushers floated at 110p a

share last March but its first year's plans were shattered by the loss of the contract to brew for Scottish & Newcastle, which accounted for a third of its contract brewing.

Sales have been only partially recouped by the deal to brew for its neighbour Gibbs Mew, which closed its own brewery last year. The shares slumped to a low of 70p following a profit warning and only recently struggled back to

90p helped by plans for share buy-backs.

Yesterday they leapt 25.5p to 127.5p in the hope of a bid at 130p, believed to be from Alchemer, a US-based venture capital group. It would value the group, which has 128 pubs and recently bought some hotels, at £127m and the shares around 12 times earnings. Schroder Venture Funds hold 28 per cent of the company and SBC

funds a further 20 per cent.

The approaches triggered a round of broker recommendations yesterday. Panmure Gordon issued buy notes on both Greenalls and Ushers, ABN Amro recommended Greene King and Greenalls, Cazenove advised clients to buy Youg and Greenalls, Teather & Greenwood favoured Morlands, and another broker tipped Wolverhampton & Dudley as well as Greenalls.

### Yesterday in the markets

#### STOCK MARKETS

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5947.30	86.50	1.48	6150.50	4382.80	3.92
FTSE 250	5934.60	13.00	0.22	5934.50	4384.20	3.00
FTSE 350	2687.70	35.20	1.33	2687.70	2141.80	3.75
FTSE All Share	2532.80	32.70	1.31	2532.80	2108.50	3.70
FTSE SmallCap	2775.40	8.10	0.29	2775.40	2182.10	2.95
FTSE Preceding	1508.10	2.80	0.17	1508.10	1225.20	2.96
FTSE AIM	1144.90	5.20	0.46	1144.90	865.90	1.05
FTSE EURO 100	1055.84	-	-	-	-	-
Dow Jones	8949.03	77.97	0.88	8949.03	8671.32	1.59
Nikkei	15329.43	-103.04	-0.67	20910.79	14488.21	1.00
Hong Kong	5688.47	11.04	0.19	16820.31	7908.13	4.82
Dax	5688.47	98.02	1.72	5688.47	3487.24	3.40

#### INTEREST RATES

Short sterling				UK 10 year gilt				US long bond			
W T W T F				M T W T F				M T W T F			
Money	Market Rates	1 year		1 year		1 year		1 year		1 year	
3 months	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
UK	7.69	1.00	7.69	0.63	5.76	-1.36	5.51	-1.66			
US	5.69	-0.13	5.88	-0.34	5.57	-1.04	5.79	-1.09			
Japan	0.55	-0.05	0.59	-0.36	1.46	-1.29	1.96	-1.32			
Germany	3.56	0.41	3.58	0.55	4.85	-0.96	5.41	-1.21			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES			
Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
CarpetRight Group	351.00	22.00	7.12
BT Group	476.50	30.00	6.72
Express Dairies	177.00	11.00	6.63
Guardian News	389.00	21.00	5.71
Royal Sun All	674.00	33.00	5.15
Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
DPS Furniture	233.50	-14.00	-5.96
Swire	283.50	-15.00	-5.03
BT	474.50	-24.50	-5.17
Powell Duffryn	578.50	-28.43	-4.92
Sedgwick Group	141.50	-5.5	-3.74

#### CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
at 10 am	at 10 am	at 10 am
Dollar 1.6357 -0.41c 1.6324	DM 1.7750 -1.01p 1.7725	Yen 139.08 -1.28 137.80
Gold 391.95 -2.15 389.80	Yen 139.08 -1.28 137.80	
Silver 5.23 0.05 5.28		
OTHER INDICATORS		
at 10 am	at 10 am	at 10 am
Bank of America 13.39 0.28 17.20	GDP 114.70 2.90 111.47	Jul
Gold 391.95 -2.15 389.80	RPI 162.00 4.00 158.35	May
Silver 5.23 0.05 5.28	Bank Rates 7.50 6.25	

#### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.8066	Malta (lira)	0.6148
Austria (schilling)	19.71	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.09
Belgium (franc)	57.89	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1804
Canada (\$)	2.3181	New Zealand (\$)	3.0297
Cyprus (pound)	0.8220	Norway (krone)	11.96
Denmark (krone)	10.75	Portugal (escudo)	204.93
Finland (markka)	8.5778	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	5.9555
France (franc)	9.4114	Spain (peseta)	2.0378
Germany (mark)	2.8165	South Africa (rand)	237.90
Greece (drachma)	475.12	Sweden (krona)	6.0920
Hong Kong (\$)	12.28	Switzerland (franc)	12.49
Ireland (pound)	1.1101	Thailand (baht)	2.9410
India (rupee)	62.77	Turkey (lira)	63.31
Israel (shekel)	5.5185	USA (\$)	1.9964
Italy (lira)	2775		
Japan (yen)	223.27		
Malaysia (ringgit)	8.1905		

Rates for indication purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook

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## JEREMY WARNER ON HOW DAVID MONTGOMERY MAY BE ABOUT TO VANQUISH HIS CRITICS

# Don't believe everything you read in the press

MEDIA companies and their executives tend to get a lot more column inches devoted to them in the press than their importance as businesses and businessmen perhaps deserves. The reasons for this are obvious: journalists are able to write about these companies with a degree of inside knowledge and understanding that they often don't possess as far as other industries are concerned.

While this offers insights that you don't get about other businesses, it doesn't necessarily make for a fair, impartial or useful view of what's happening in the world. Often these accounts are coloured by a mixture of the overly commercial and the cynically personal.

The commercial interest takes the form either of total denial—as often happens in the Murdoch press when writing about the affairs of its proprietor—or of knocking copy about a rival organisation, which is happening with growing levels of vitriol throughout the press.

Then there is the personal. Senior and even quite junior positions in the media are traded with an abandon matched only by the City. There seems to be a perpetual game of musical chairs in progress. Sacked or otherwise disaffected employees find it easy to gain an alternative platform to vent their spleen. In my experience, employees in nearly all companies, up to an alarmingly

high level of management, have a poor view of the abilities and strategies of their senior executives. But in no other industry is it possible for the employee, in this case the journalist, to gain such a powerful public medium to air their grievances, as well as their opinions.

The most successful companies, not just in the media but in all industries, are those that manage to bridge this divide between management and workforce. Lamentably they are few and far between. In any event, I suspect you would find all industries written about with the same critical eye and venom as media companies, given the same platform and writing skills. There is already a growing body of this sort of material on the Internet and certainly it makes for great entertainment.

So what's my point? I don't want to apologise for anyone, but I do want to examine a particular case of this kind of treatment. It's hard to recall a businessman receiving a worse press in recent times than that dished out to David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group. He's been demonised in a way normally reserved for international fraudsters or spectacular bankrupts. As far as media moguls go, only Rupert Murdoch gets it more in the neck, and with him there's usually a grudging respect behind the strictures. Mr Montgomery has had it so badly that it's not just

public opinion that is affected, but City perceptions too, and it has plainly damaged his share price.

Bits of it may or may not be fair, but quite a lot of it is not. Personally Mr Montgomery is not what he's often made out to be. He's determined and ambitious, undoubtedly ruthless and certainly a little awkward, but he also has a quiet charm and is a consummate professional. As an Ulsterman, he's played a vital role in the Northern Ireland peace process, which is acknowledged by the Prime Minister himself, often spending long hours haranguing and persuading his unionist countrymen of the need to cede ground and give up the old conflict.

His record as a businessman—which is actually pretty good—is also quite unrecognisable in what is generally written about him. When he took over at Mirror Group in the wake of Maxwell's death, there were serious doubts about the survival of the company, if not its titles. Yet Mr Montgomery was put back on an even keel financially, the old corrupt practices and excesses of the Maxwell years were excoriated, and the papers were moved to new, low-cost premises in Canary Wharf. Today Mirror Group achieves some of the highest operating margins in the industry.

In achieving these, Mr Montgomery may have cut too deeply into the editorial re-

source of his products. Certainly we have felt that on *The Independent*, which Mirror Group half owned until recently. There has also been a lack of any clear editorial strategy, which has been reflected in the declining circulation of all his main titles.

It is chiefly these two factors which have worried the City, led to the underperformance of Mirror Group's share price in recent years, and prompted the great outpouring of hostile copy. Furthermore, Mirror Group's diversifications have proved costly and not particularly inspired. In this department, however, Mr Montgomery has found himself largely a victim of fortune.

Mirror Group's comparatively small size and the one-product nature of the company—which is essentially the *Mirror* and its satellites—has made it hard to compete with the greater fire power of larger, diversified media groups such as News Corporation. At the same time, the arbitrary nature of the cross-media ownership rules have blocked Mirror Group from profitable diversification into TV. Ironically, Mirror Group recently fell below the 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation which acts as a threshold for ownership of a TV franchise. Unfortunately, everything decent has long since been snapped up.

None of this may be much of an excuse, but it does at least explain why Mr Montgomery has adopted the approach he has

at Mirror Group. Most businessmen and financiers would readily understand the balance that needs to be achieved between costs and revenue if an acceptable rate of return is to be earned, even if many journalists do not. As a relatively small player in a mature and highly competitive market, this is never achieved without a degree of pain, and it requires tough decisions.

Furthermore it is now apparent beyond doubt that Mirror Group is not the busted flush many of these accounts claim. With its titles beginning to show unmistakable signs of life under the guiding hand of Mirror Group's new deputy chief executive, Kelvin MacKenzie, the company has become the object of a number of bid approaches. We already know about Axel Springer and Trinity. Not generally known about is the possibility of a venture capital bid for the company in conjunction with some or all of the top management. Royal Bank of Scotland is being lined up to provide finance. There's also the possibility of a bid from the Barclays fledgling media empire.

Mr Montgomery's supposed asking price of 300p a share begins to look not as impossible as it might have seemed. And if he achieves that, none of the sniping he has received from the press will matter a jot. Certainly there will be not a murmur of discontent in the City.

## Forex dealers barred from UK investment business

TWO forex dealers have been disqualified from UK investment business after a tribunal found they "were reckless in the extreme and showed a total disregard for the obligations placed on those who have the custody of others' assets". The Financial Services Authority tribunal found James Okoro Okarima and William Edward Samuel Newton, of Global Foreign Exchange Corporation, were not fit and proper persons to be employed in investment business. It found the directors of Global, a small private client specialising in rolling Forex spot options, had tried to hide the identity of Global's owners from the FSA. Mr Okarima and Mr Newton had also deceived bailiffs into thinking the company's assets had been sold when they had not. Global was wound up in June last year owing £250,000 to investors.

## Construction volume leaps

CONSTRUCTION is booming, according to the latest official figures. The volume of total output, which accounts for about 5 per cent of GDP, jumped 2.6 per cent in the first quarter of this year. The amount of new work reached a 25-year high, continuing a strong upward trend since mid-1996. The surge was driven by private industrial construction, up 12 per cent compared with the final quarter of 1997, and infrastructure, up 9 per cent.

## BBC included on digital Sky

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television group, yesterday announced that BBC's digital channels will be available on Sky's digital satellite service when it is launched this month. The deal, which involves the BBC paying BSkyB an undisclosed sum to handle subscriber management for the channels, means that the BBC channels will be available on all digital platforms. The initial channels will be BBC One and Two, Choice and News 24. They will be followed by BBC Learning and an enhanced text service.

## SDX ponders 325p offer

SDX Business Systems, the telecom equipment supplier which recently revealed that it had received a bid approach, yesterday announced it was discussing a potential offer which would value the company at 325p per share. The price was less than the market expected for SDX, which is growing quickly by selling sophisticated telecom systems to small and medium-sized companies. The shares dropped 3p to 328.5p.

## Reject bid, says Trafford

TRAFFORD Park Estates yesterday issued a defence document urging shareholders to reject a hostile £146m bid from Dublin-based Green Property, saying it undervalued the company because it did not account for its development programme or land holdings. Green is offering 190p in cash or stock worth 212p a share for Trafford.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Adiant Associates (1)	(-)	0.278m (0.037m)	0.38p (0.08p)	nil
Bentley (2)	77.3m (120.7m)	5.4m (4.82m)	3.5p (3.7p)	1.4p (1.1p)
Black Point (3)	105.5m (91m)	8.67m (6.61m)	2.77p (4.10p)	2.98p (2.98p)
Proline (4)	(-)	USD-0.977m (-0.851m)	0.4c (-0.36p)	

(1) - Final, (2) - Interim, (3) - EPS is pre-exceptional, (4) - Dividend to be paid as a PD

## WHO'S SUING WHOM

### JOHN WILLCOCK



BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the head of Formula One Holdings, is seeking damages and an injunction against *BusinessAge* and its editor, Tom Rubythorn, over the latest issue of the magazine, which features the racing car boss on its cover.

Mr Ecclestone issued a writ via his solicitors Schilling & Lom this week seeking "damages (including aggravated and exemplary damages) for libel contained on the front cover and on pages 4 and 76 to 82 inclusive of the issue of *BusinessAge* magazine for June 1998..."

The writ also seeks an injunction restraining *BusinessAge* from repeating the words complained of.

A LEGAL dispute has broken out between two of the leading providers of after-dinner speakers in this country. The two parties involved represent speakers ranging from Jack Charlton to John Docherty, from David Frost to Alan Whicker.

Joseph Jones, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, this week issued a writ seeking an injunction and damages against British Speakers Bureau Limited, a company owned by Ron Mowlam, boss of The Celebrity Group.

In 1993 Mr Jones left The Celebri-

ty Group and set up on his own, under the name "After Dinner Speakers". Mr Jones says that last year he heard that Mr Mowlam's company, British Speakers Bureau (BSB), was running a business titled "After Dinner Speakers Limited".

Mr Jones claims Mr Mowlam offered to sell him the "Limited" name for £3,000. A spokesman for Mr Mowlam says that Mr Mowlam's lawyers, BP Collins of Gerrards Cross, offered to sell the name to Mr Jones but heard nothing from him.

Finally this Tuesday Mr Jones's lawyers, Kidd Rapinnet, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, issued a writ against "After Dinner Speakers Limited" and "British Speakers Bureau Limited". Mr Jones is seeking an injunction to stop the defendants from "passing off" any of their services as services of the plaintiff. Mr Jones is also seeking damages.

A spokesman for Mr Mowlam said yesterday said that he had no knowledge of Mr Jones's writ. The spokesman added that BSB and Mr Mowlam were not trading under the "After Dinner Speakers Limited" name, but had merely bought it from another company two years ago. Therefore there "really isn't a conflict" with Mr Jones.

THE Law Society has issued a writ against KPMG, the accountancy firm, over a claim for £8.5m dating back to 1992.

The claim of damages for negligence concerns KPMG's role as reporting accountant for law firm Dunford Ford.

Graham Ford, the firm's senior partner, was found to have mishandled £8.5m of clients' money, and was struck off by the Law Society in 1993.

The Law Society started legal proceedings against KPMG in 1995, and the accountancy firm was puzzled yesterday as to why the Law Society had issued a further writ this week.

The claim against KPMG is expected to go to trial in about six months' time.

Two members of KPMG are also mentioned as defendants in this week's writ, Stephen Cawley and Neil Chapman.

The Law Society's writ says its claim is for "damages for negligence and/or negligent misstatement arising from a report made pursuant to Section 34 of the Solicitors Act 1974 in relation to the firm of Dunford Ford in respect of the period 1 June 1990 to 31 May 1991" and sent to the Law Society on 3 October 1991.

A spokesman for KPMG said yesterday: "This case has been the subject of legal action since 1992 and KPMG has strongly resisted the allegations made against it. It continues to do so."

KILLIK & Co, the upmarket private client stockbroker, is suing Sarosh Zaiwalla of solicitors Zaiwalla & Co and Andrew Milne over ownership of shares in Chesterton International.

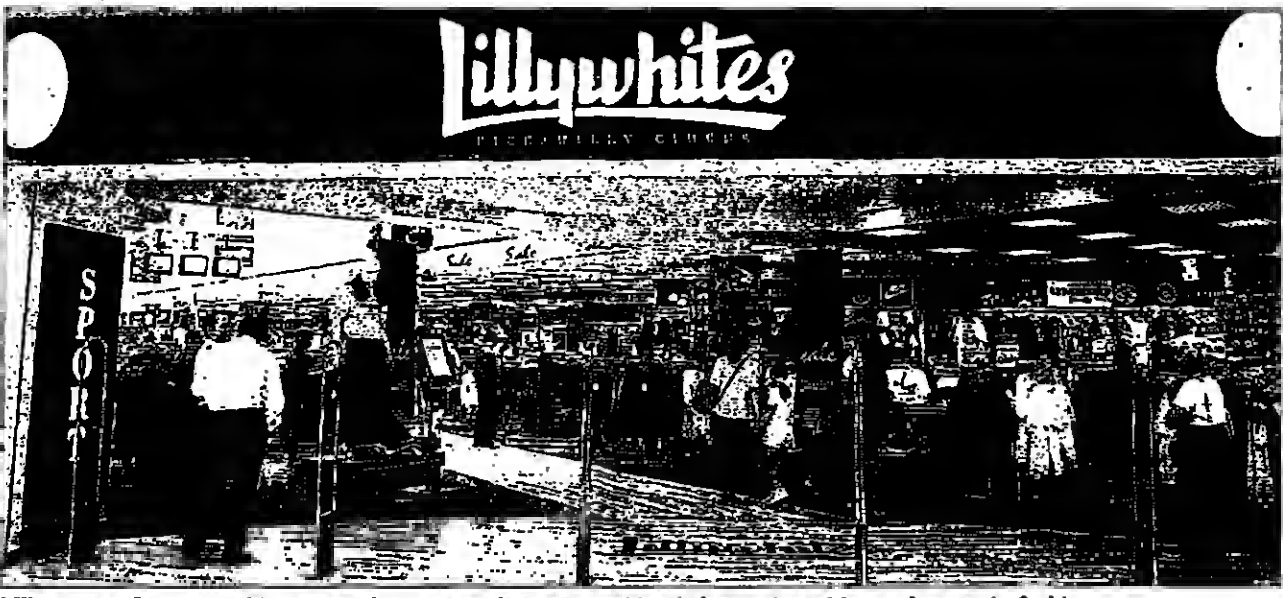
The disputed shares are currently held on behalf of Mr Milne by Killik & Co's custodian Pershing Securities.

Mr Zaiwalla is being represented by Keith Oliver of Peters & Peters, the solicitor who successfully defended Kevin Maxwell.

The writ was issued on behalf of Killik & Co by Linklaters, the City law firm.

THE RECEIVERS of Landhurst Leasing, Arthur Andersen, are suing Liverpool City Council for around £200,000 over rental for coaches and equipment belonging to the crashed company which the council subleased.

The writ was issued on behalf of the receivers last month by the law firm Reid Minty.



Lillywhites: Stocks a wide range of sports equipment, making it less vulnerable to changes in fashion

# Blacks Leisure in talks on Lillywhites stores

By Peter Thal Larsen

BLACKS Leisure, the fast-growing sports and outdoor retailer, yesterday confirmed that it was in talks with the Portuguese owners of Lillywhites, the famous chain of sports stores.

In a brief statement Blacks said that it had held talks with Jeronimo Martins, the Portuguese supermarkets group "regarding the possible development of Jeronimo Martins' operations in UK sports retail", although it stressed that the talks were "non-exclusive" and "exploratory".

Martins is believed to be seeking a buyer for a majority stake in Lillywhites, best known for its flagship store in London's Piccadilly Circus. It paid Forte, the hotels group, £28.5m for the stores in 1995.

Analysts said Blacks might be keen to expand Lillywhites, which has 10 stores dotted around the country, by opening concessions in its existing First Sport or Blacks Outdoor formats.

"Lillywhites would be a good name to have in their store portfolio," said Williams de Broe analyst Jeremy

Hilditch. "But with strong London brands you have to be careful about pushing them out elsewhere."

Opening in-store concessions has worked for Hamleys, the toy retailer, allowing it to expand from its flagship store on London's Regent Street.

Lillywhites may also be attractive for its strength in selling sports equipment. Successful sports retailers of recent years such as Blacks and JJB Sports have tended to concentrate on selling clothing—especially football strips—and shoes.

However, demand has

fallen away recently, prompting worries that wearing sports gear is no longer considered fashionable.

Lillywhites stocks a wide range of equipment such as tennis rackets, cricket bats, skis and exercise machines, demand for which is less vulnerable to the whims of fashion.

The group has not been without its problems, however, suffering the departure of several top managers in 1996.

Blacks shares firmed 1p to 370p. Since the beginning of the year they have slipped from a high of 518p.

# Name change as Park grows

By Clifford German

PARK FOODS, best known for its door-to-door sales of Christmas hampers and food vouchers, plans to change its name to Park Group as it searches for a new identity and new markets.

It will create 1,000 full or part-time jobs in its home territory of Birkenhead by opening a £2.5m telephone-based data management centre in September, the chief executive Alastair Kerr said yesterday.

The centre will house the group's marketing and loyalty scheme management business. Handling Solutions (HSL), whose management has been drastically shaken up.

The group's latest attempt at diversification, a home credit service making small loans and collecting payments door to door, will also start to go national in September.

The dispute with Stuart Marks, the founder of HSL, who became a director of Park Foods when the business was acquired in 1993 and was sacked after mounting an unsuccessful buyout plan in 1996, has been settled out of court.

The group's founder, chairman and chief shareholder,

Peter Johnson, will become non-executive in October, handing day-to-day control to Mr Kerr, who joined the group from Virgin Retail last year, in order to spend more time with his other love, struggling Everton Football Club.

But the group's previous attempt to diversify away from its highly seasonal hamper business by marketing a fried potato snack under the brand name Spuddles was largely responsible for a 30 per cent drop in group profits to £6.67m in the year to 31 March.

The figures were below market forecasts, the unchanged dividend of 2.98p was disappointing and the shares fell a further 2p to 59p yesterday.

Spuddles failed to break into the catering market and lost £2.3m in the full year on sales of just £250,000.

A low-fat version that can be cooked in an oven has been developed for the retail market and Park is talking to Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway in the hope of negotiating a supply contract as an alternative to selling the division outright.

The £1m cost of restructuring Handling Solutions has also been charged to profit.

## FIND OUT WHO THEY

# F A

## AT FRANCE 98



Ronaldo of Inter Milan & Brazil

"Denilson will be the player to fear at World Cup '98".

## The essential World Cup Guide

Free in this week's Independent on Sunday, a 32 page colour guide, with team by team analysis, interviews with England stars past and present and a spotlight on Brazil's brilliant Denilson.



# A city fighting for its reputation



**Manchester:**  
The city hosts the Commonwealth Games in 2002, but remains notorious for its levels of violent crime, with gangster families terrorising retailers and night clubs



A club in central Manchester. Owners are being encouraged to hire out-of-town bouncers, who are less vulnerable to pressure from local crime families.

"BASTARD," screamed the man from the pavement, looking directly at me. "Bastard, bastard!" His face was puce with anger and his lips were flecked with spittle. "Bastard, bastard, bastard!"

I was not sure what I was supposed to have done. I was sitting at a table at a pavement cafe in St Peter's Square having a coffee – and reading in the *Manchester Evening News* that crimes of violence in the city had risen by 50 per cent over the past year.

I decided to ignore him, and turned my eyes studiously to the paper. My assailant lurched across the road to the Cenotaph and started hurling bedraggled poppy wreaths into the air before taking his inexplicable anger elsewhere.

"Don't take it personally," smiled the stranger at the next table. The trouble is that we do take it personally. Or as Alan Haughton put it, with an epigrammatic flourish: "We live in a world of anecdotes."

Mr Haughton is the manager of Lifeline, a drugs agency in the city, which works in the dance and rave clubs that are said to be the focus of the city's violence. A leaked letter from the leader of the city council to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police recently accused the force of failing to combat the "rampant lawlessness" of the protection rackets and the drug dealing in the city's clubland. Is it that bad?

Anecdotes are not much help here. When I asked Ben, a clubber in his late twenties who reckons he has been out on more than 1,000 occasions in the past decade, he replied: "Not at all. I've only seen one incident in that time." Yet when I asked Anna, a 19-year-old student, she responded: "Every time we go into the city we get involved in some kind of violence" – and told tales of bottles raining through windows, of dance-floor punch-ups, of broken noses, and even of a "friend of a cousin's friend" who, while dancing, had been stabbed with a syringe labelled "Welcome to the HIV club".

If the last tale sounds like an urban myth it still tells us something. The thing about a myth is that it may be based on truth, or it may not be, but it becomes more potent than reality and therefore a new reality in itself. The fear of violence is what worries the council leader, Richard Leese, who can clearly spot a threat to investment a mile off. Manchester is to host the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

"The city has already begun to attract extra investment," he said amid the Victorians of his oak-panelled Town Hall office, "and that that will step up significantly after the 1998 games. All this 'Britain's most violent city' stuff doesn't exactly help, even if the truth is that you have less chance of being attacked than being hit by a car."

The new crime statistics were released for the meeting of the local police authority yesterday. Mr Leese had been on to the Chief Constable ahead of the meeting for an explanation. "He told me that they had changed the way they calculated the figures to include minor assaults, which previously had been omitted."

Did that entirely account for the increase? "He said he can't answer that question. So I don't know – and it appears that nobody knows – whether violent crime in Manchester is going up." Later, the police issued a statement insisting that if you took out the minor incidents of "pushing and slapping" the real increase was not 50 per cent but less than 2 per cent.

But if the *Evening News* insisted that such explanations "will not wash", there can be no doubting that beneath the mythology there lies the conflation of three separate phenomena: hard drugs, so-called leisure drugs and alcohol.

Hard drugs were at the centre of the city's gun wars in the early 1990s. Heroin and crack dealing are

concentrated not in the city centre but in the notorious inner-city suburbs such as Moss Side. In recent years there has been relative calm in these areas, which is to say that only the occasional shooting is reported. Lower unemployment and the wider availability on prescription of methadone, which makes the addicts dozy, are said to be the cause. This is reflected in yesterday's statistics. Smackheads tend to involve themselves in what the police call "acquisitive crimes" – shoplifting, burglary and car theft – which, along with guns offences, are all down.

Today's problems are different. They are centred around the dance and rave clubs, where local crime families, who five years ago were involved in armed robberies, have moved into ecstasy supplying. The kids who take the drug may claim it fills them with universal love, but the same cannot be said for the individuals who supply it.

Club owners in the city have felt powerless, since these gangsters often control the bouncers through

payment or intimidation. "Dealers can make £12,000 per club per night," one club owner told me. "Doormen can share more than £3,000 a night as their cut." Anyone who objects is beaten or shot. The gangsters do not even have to produce their guns. A word is enough to secure access and free food and drinks.

It is the spill-over of this culture into the mainstream that has worried the city authorities. Gangsters tried the same tactics at a five-star city-centre hotel recently. Newly opened restaurants that refused to pay protection have been trashed. One major eating chain recently cancelled its opening. Ram-raids on designer fashion shops in the past six months seemed aimed more at intimidation than theft.

"We've had discussions with the managers at Armani and the others and they are adamant that they are not paying protection," Richard Leese said. Still, he is relieved that the first phase of the city centre's closed circuit TV system, which was delayed by the IRA bomb there two

years ago – is to open in August.

Moreover, although the local police say little, it is evident that they have changed their approach in the weeks since Mr Leese wrote his stinging letter. They have begun to make their presence felt with "disruptive policing". They have begun towing away cars parked illegally outside a bar frequented by gangsters. Officers in body armour have made appearances in clubs, backed up by armed response units outside. Five-hour rolling roadblocks every weekend for the past five weeks have produced exemplary arrests for drugs and firearms offences. Now, clubs are being encouraged to use out-of-town security firms from as far afield as Birmingham, so that doormen are not vulnerable to the threat "we know where you live".

But there is a third problem. Most casual violence on the streets is fuelled not by drugs but by alcohol. In the past year the city has been shocked by what locals call the Good Samaritan murders, five separate cases in which those who tried to break up fights were killed.

No one is sure of the correct response. The authorities hope that the general police clampdown will have its effect. Mr Leese looks uneasy when asked whether the local liberalisation of the licensing laws might partly be responsible. "No, more liberal laws have generally eased the problem. You don't get the 2am closing time tension."

Others, such as Alan Haughton, are more pragmatic. Lifeline is about to produce a set of "What to do if ..." leaflets. If what? "If you see someone collapsed in the street, if you see a guy beating up his girlfriend, if you encounter violence in the taxi queue or kebab shop."

What does it tell us about society if self-defence is the only response, I asked. "We can't look at this as anthropologists," Mr Haughton replied. "We have to live here and ask 'What works?'"

So, I was about to riposte, we turn away our eyes. And then I remembered that that was exactly what I had done with the man in St Peter's Square. Suddenly it seemed as good an answer as any.



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## Transport by Nicky Clarke

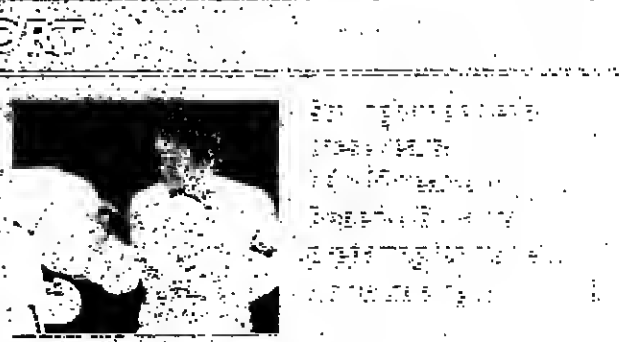
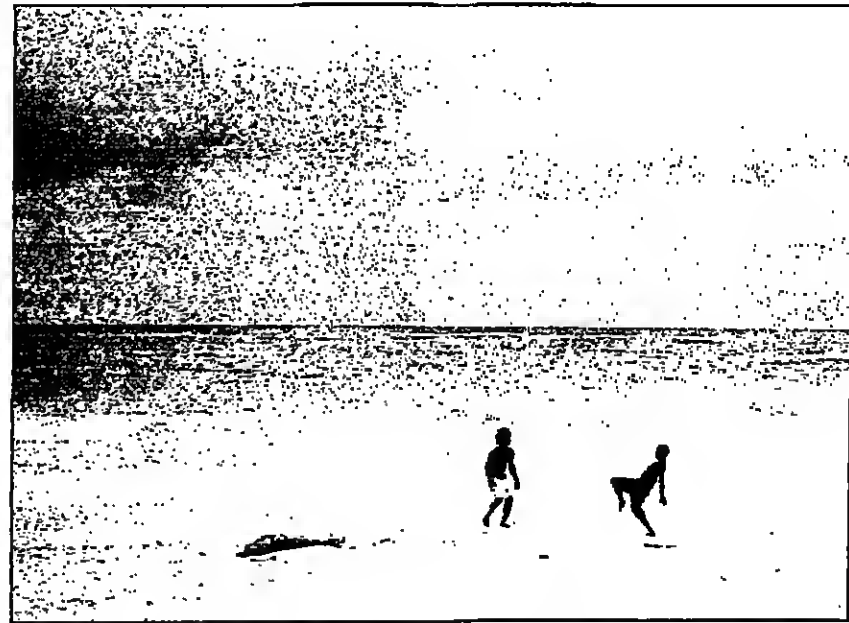
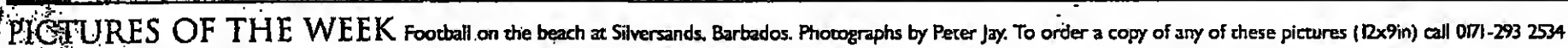
The Rules: 1 Remove all items. 2 Remove partner's clothing. 3 Grab a pack of Nicky Clarke Sport Protein Shampoo from the new Sport range. 4 Massage into scalp hair the rich, natural-looking combination of Vitamin E, Wheat protein and Pro-Vitamin B5. 5 Rinse. 6 Enjoy. (Don't get carried away.)



PHOTOGRAPHED BY JON JONES

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ITV Teletext  
p387



NEW ORLEANS, LA ECON COMM AFF AFF (1997) = MARCH 1998 = HEATH, N.Y. (1994)



# Cycle the Red route

History and pedal power combine to good effect in the Rebels and Radicals of the East End cycle tour. Simon Calder takes to the tandem



Beneath a sign that proclaims the Royal London Hospital in Bengali, Chinese and Vietnamese, Duncan Hibberd points towards Joseph Stalin's doss-house. Evening traffic moans along the Mile End Road, past the bicycles struggling up to the railings, while we learn that the dentist's surgery above Stuart's Camera's was the location for a crucial meeting of the Russian Social Democrat Labour Party in 1907. After mapping out the course of the 20th century with Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, Joseph Stalin nipped around the corner to the digs on Fieldgate Street where he was, literally, slumming it.

This event - Duncan's talk, not the founding of the USSR - began the dress rehearsal for one of the most appealing events of National Bike Week: next Tuesday evening's ride, entitled Rebels and Radicals of the East End.

Charlotte Hindle (co-owner and rear-gunner of our tandem) and I were dressed up to the defensive nines in fluorescent. Duncan and his fellow guide from Tower Hamlets Wheelers, Gary Cummings, weren't. "We make a point of not wearing cycling gear like Lycra," said Gary. "We don't think it's a good advertisement for cycling."

The ride, though, most definitely is. It began three years ago as the Wheelers' contribution to the annual celebration of cycling, and has proved to be politically astute. On a two-hour, six-mile

pedal around the unchallenging gradients of East London, you discover that the capital's most cosmopolitan quarter was the location for many great social and political advances. And confrontations.

Gary leads us on a half-mile struggle along inadequate cycle lanes blocked by illegally parked cars to St George's, one of the elegant trilogy of East End churches built by Nicholas Hawksmoor. A short-cut through the churchyard provides a verdant interlude. Then you emerge on to Cable Street beneath the potent futurist mural to the barricades built by anti-Fascists against Oswald Mosley's blackshirts in 1936. East London was then, as now, richly multicultural. "Mosley shall not pass," proclaims a banner. "Bar the road to British fascism." And they did.

Onwards, and backwards six centuries. Stepney Green was where East Anglian protesters against the Poll Tax gathered in June, 1381. The Peasants' Revolt ultimately fell victim to treachery, but the rebellion obliged the monarchy to take seriously the will of the people.

Not all the people of the present-day East End seem charmed by cyclists. Motorists seem unwilling to concede an inch of road space to bicycles, and at least one Tower Hamlets citizen awarded us a vigorous one-finger salute. On the roads, at least, anarchy has seized London E2.

Next stop on the circuit is the Ragged School Museum, on the north bank of the Grand Union Canal. Thomas John Barnardo, a member of an exiled Spanish family, had no wish to overturn the Establishment. He came to London in 1866 to train first as a physician, then as a missionary, intending to evangelise in China. But he was appalled by the conditions he found in his own backyard. He began preaching on street corners, "tackling hecklers with authority and dodging slops thrown from upstairs windows", according to Gary's colourful commentary. The Ragged School was originally a canal warehouse, before it became a mission for juveniles where children received food and education.



Where Barnardo battled against poverty - the Ragged School Museum (above); St George's in the East End (left) Photographs: Peter Macdiarmid

East London provided refuge for 20th-century radicals, too. On 12 September, 1931, Mahatma Gandhi moved to London, settling at Bow at Kingsley House (really - though he was no relation to the actor Ben, who played the Indian leader in the film of his life). His welcome gifts comprised a goat and a pair of trousers, plus a goldfish bowl donated by AA Milne. A blue plaque celebrates the spiritual sojourn, while bangra music blasts out from what is now a community centre.

Cycling, besides being a fittingly pacifist way to tour the city, allows you to imbibe a great deal of local history in a short tour. Parking and one-way restrictions render a motoring version

impractical (at least in theory). Walking would take twice as long, while public transport provides no radical solution to tracking down the haunts of rebels.

One problem: the political heroes are mostly men, so far. The gender imbalance is corrected, at least partially, with a visit to 45 Norman Grove, where Sylvia Pankhurst established a toy factory on principles of humanity rather than profit. But the former Bryant & May match factory is the most striking (sorry) memorial of all to social change. In 1888, thousands of match-girls took part in the first strike by unorganised, unskilled labour. Despite the initial reprisals against the women, the event was an important stage in the development of mass trades unionism.

"Britain's last match factory closed down five years ago," says Gary. The handsome Victorian redbrick factory is now known as Bow Quarter, and the BMWs parked outside show that radicalism has been extinguished in favour of luxury housing. Stalin would hate it.

Gary Cummings, co-ordinator for the Tower Hamlets Wheelers, is on 0171-265 9095. To take part in the Rebels and Radicals of the East End tour, turn up at the main entrance of the Royal London Hospital (on Mile End Road, opposite Whitechapel Underground) at 7pm next Tuesday, 9 June. And bring a bike.

## From rust-heap to ice-cream: Britain by bike

You know that battered old heap of rust in the garage, with flat tyres and creaky joints? If that describes your car, then leave it at home on Wednesday - National Bike-to-Work Day - and cycle in instead. Conversely, if it describes your bike, then get it fixed up this weekend.

National Bike Week begins today and runs until 14 June. Many events are planned throughout the country, aimed at both beginners and serious riders.

All over the country Doctor Bike "clinics", with stalls manned by stetho-scooped "bike doctors", will be willing to help you with any queries or problems you may have. These clinics are funded by the sponsors of the entire week, Halfords.

On your bike with National Bike Week, by Cheryl Winspear

Today there should be much jollity when the Sportsmatch Challenge gets under way. At 200 locations around the country, children and adults are able to try out an obstacle course involving ramps, see-saws and other tricky terrain. The idea is to encourage better bike-handling skills and safer cycling, particularly for children. The event is being run through the sponsorship of the Department of Culture, Media and

Sport, and a range of cycling-related prizes is on offer.

Many of the organised rides, like the Rebels and Radicals of the East End tour (above) do not require you to be an especially dedicated cyclist.

To sample some of the Trans-Pennine Trail, the cycle/footpath linking Hull and Liverpool, you could join a "discovery ride" through Cheshire on 14 June, cycling from Lymm near Warrington to Dunham Massey near Altrincham with the Warrington Borough Council's countryside rangers. For more information and booking forms, contact Tim Baker (01925 758195).

In the Midlands on Monday night (8 June), there is an evening mystery ride

around Stratford-upon-Avon, covering nine miles and finishing at a mystery pub. For further information contact Dick Taylor (01789 268821).

Or, to keep everyone happy, try the Skellingthorpe family ride in Lincolnshire on Wednesday 10 June, a three-miler following a route that has just been opened as part of a plan endeavour to link Skellingthorpe with Lincoln. Details from Sustrans' East Midlands office (01522 788889).

Tomorrow, starting at 10am, the professionals show how it is done at the Welsh National Road-Race Championships. The event begins in Llan-drindod Wells, reputedly the smallest town in Britain.

Back in the capital, the London Cycling Campaign is planning 10 per cent more events this year than last. At 11am today, a charity bike ride with a difference takes place: a guided tour around London's best second-hand clothes shops, beginning at Mind in Camden (opposite the tube station) and ending at Humana in Shepherd's Bush. And on Tuesday evening, the "Epic Ice-Cream Ride" starts at Enfield Civic Centre at 7m and ends at Marine Ice in Chalk Farm. Lights and a sweet tooth essential.

More information on events can be obtained from the Cycle Touring Club's National Bike Week hotline (01483 419556) or <http://www.national-bike-week.org.uk>

### A train

The battle to provide the best rail deal in Britain this summer continues. Anglia Railways weighs in with the freedom of Norfolk and Suffolk for £7.50 a day. You can travel any time at weekends or after 8.45am during the week in the area bounded by Sheringham, Thetford, Great Yarmouth, Felixstowe, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. Accompanying children travel for £1 each. Unlike many of these special deals, there are discounts for railcard holders.

### A boat

The ferry service between Dover and Ostend has been re-established by Hoverspeed Fast Ferries (0990 595522). The journey is twice as quick as conventional ferries, taking just over two hours each way. Until the end of June, the company is offering a two-for-one day return, costing £4 per person during the week, £5 on Saturdays.



**A plane**  
Seats across the Atlantic may be scarce this summer, so a new Belgian airline could prove handy. City Bird Airlines (00 322 752 5211) flies from Brussels to Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas, at fares well below the usual full-fare rates on other airlines. On the weekly service from the Belgian capital to Las Vegas, for example, you pay around £180 each way. Besides the fast ferry to Ostend (see left) Brussels airport is easily accessible from several UK airports, or by Eurostar with a change at Brussels Midi.

### A room

With prices at many Parisian hotels increasing significantly during the World Cup, one of the cheaper places to stay in Paris could be a hotel in the middle of Charles de Gaulle airport.

The Ibis (00 33 1 49 19 19 19) has a rate of 545F (about £57) for three people sharing a room. Two people pay rather more (670F/£70), but this includes breakfast. The Stade de France is 20 minutes away by RER train.

After 13 July, room rates fall to 415F (£43) for up to three people, with a weekend special rate of 320F (£33).

### A meal

Tequila jelly is one of the items on the menu when Mardi Gras arrives in Bristol next Saturday. The travel specialist Trips Worldwide (0117-987 2626) is staging a Latin America fair at Ashton Court Manor House next Saturday, 13 June. It takes place from noon to 5pm,

costs £1 to get in, and includes talks on the region plus salsa and merengue instruction at a Latin dance workshop. You can use your new-found skills later that evening at a Mardi Gras ball, at the same location from 8pm to 4am. Tickets, price £30, must be booked in advance; the best costume wins a free flight to Cartagena in Colombia.

### A drink

Colombian or otherwise, a taste for coffee could win you a trip to one of the great café capitals of Europe. For each of the next four weeks the travel pages of *The Independent*, in association with the new guide *Café Crime Cafés of Europe Guide 1998*, will be offering a weekend for two in Venice, Vienna, Paris and Madrid.

Full details of the competition will appear next Saturday; meanwhile, you may wish to begin to reflect on the tastiest coffee, dreamiest cake, best ambience, and most romantic café experience.

### A week from now ...

... you can take part in the third annual Roof of England walks event, based at the Pennine town of Alston on 14 June. Call North Pennines Tourism on 01434 382069 for details of the three routes, which range from four to 20 miles.

### A month from now ...

... you will no longer be able to glance through the windows of apartment blocks as your 747 comes in to land at Hong Kong. The new airport at Chek Lap Kok is due to open on 6 July.

### A year from now ...

... the Calgary Stampede will be getting under way in Alberta's largest city. The event features parades, a rodeo and a covered wagon race. For details call 001 403 261 0101 or contact the Visit Canada Centre, 62-65 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DY (0891 715000, a premium-rate line).

## SIMON CALDER



London to Paris for £62 return on British Airways - excellent value, but what shall we do with all the Sainsbury's orange squash?

The most bizarre travel bargain of the year is on offer until the supermarkets close tonight. If you buy enough of the aforesaid cordial (or, indeed, lemon squash), you qualify for 488 Air Miles under the Sainsbury's Reward scheme.

Buy 60 one-litre bottles of the drink at 75p each. This will cost a total of £45 - less than half the lowest London-Paris fare currently available on BA. You have to add taxes of £17 to both these fares, but a total of £62 to fly between the British and French capitals is excellent value. And you'll still have 30 Air Miles left over, together with a bathful of sticky fruit concentrate.

One of our writers, David Woodworth, first revealed the absurd generosity of some Sainsbury's/Air Miles promotions. He calculated that spending £97 on 14kg of own-label coffee could earn enough for a London-Amsterdam flight. (David says he is getting through the coffee apace, which could explain his astonishing productivity at present.)

One of our readers, Richard Madge of Bezhill, drew my attention to the orange juice anomaly. "Someone at Sainsbury's has got their sums wrong," he says, and I agree.

For British Airways, which owns the Air Miles brand, the scheme is a good way to profit from plane seats that would otherwise be empty. The airline sells Air Miles, for about 10 pence each, to traders who use them to help promote sales of suits or squash.

Collectors then "spend" the miles on BA flights. On the 450-mile round trip from London to Paris, the airline earns £67.50, not a bad return for an otherwise vacant seat.

From your point of view, the art is in buying low and spending high - to minimise the amount you "pay" for each Air Mile, while maximising the value you get when you "spend" them. Anyone foolish enough to fly to Australia using Air Miles would effectively be giving BA £3,000 for the privilege, about six times the going rate were you to buy a ticket through a travel agent. On a flight down under, each Air Mile works out to be worth just four pence.

Where you really start to benefit is on short-haul flights, such as the London-Paris trip where each Air Mile is worth 20p. Suppose you need to travel only one way: the cheapest method is to buy a return for £91 plus tax, and throw the return half away.

Two secrets of Air Miles: you can use them for one-way trips, and the usual "Saturday night minimum stay" restriction doesn't apply to return journeys. So business travellers, or anyone else needing just a one-way flight to Paris, can increase the value of each Air Mile to more than 40p. And buying the right kind of squash at Sainsbury's could earn you Air Miles for less than 10p each.

The loss of revenue for British Airways that this could trigger is known in the travel trade, appropriately enough, as dilution - and it's certainly to my taste. See you by the soft drinks shelves this morning. But be warned: this is such a good deal, there could be a squash.

We get lots of invitations to submit entries for travel-writing awards, and sometimes take them up - witness Harriet O'Brien, editor of the Time Off section, winning the Traveler award in 1996 for the best national newspaper travel story. That competition is sponsored by a company running foreign exchange bureaux, whose main interest is in promoting travel in the broadest terms. We are rather more circumspect when holiday companies or tourist boards get involved in country-specific competitions.

The Scottish Thistle Awards for Tourism, for example, are not necessarily concerned with rewarding the best travel story about the country. The judges are looking for someone who has succeeded in "encouraging the reader, viewer or listener to visit Scotland".

When you've written a suitably laudatory story, there's one more before you send it in to the Scottish Tourist Board: "On a separate A4 sheet and in no more than 750 words can you please describe how you feel you have contributed to the promotion of Scotland as a tourism destination." Nothing there about the enlightenment or entertainment of the reader.

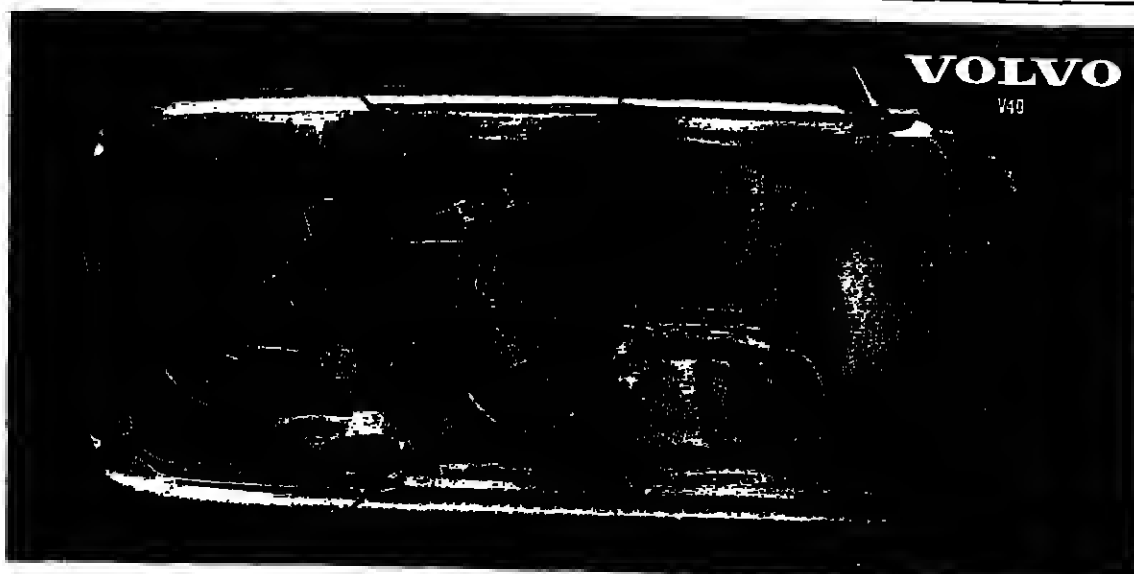
I have nevertheless submitted Bob Carter's excellent tale of touring the wintry Highlands in a 1959 Rover, which appeared in these pages in February. Accompanying it, instead of the requisite 750 words, is a snuffy note saying that the sole concern of this section is the reader, not the travel industry. So we won't win. Sorry, Bob.

The US car hire saga cruises on, with tales of travellers being charged for upgrades that weren't agreed. The Sussex family whose subcompact turned into a Ford Aerostar, and the Boston rental depot that ran out of cars. More tales of the road next week.

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هاتنا من الأصل



# Killer at large

هكذا من الأصل



Weighing eight tons, they need to consume 550lb of meat a day. But thanks to their razor-sharp teeth, they are among the most efficient eating machines on the planet. Anna Rockall comes face to face with killer whales

It might have been a scene from *Jaws*. We sat in the dinghy, bobbing just within sight of the shore as the fins of giant sea creatures sliced through the water only a few feet away. Limbs were kept firmly within the protective bounds of the boat, and diving in for a quick dip was most definitely not recommended.

But these weren't sharks, though the name sounds almost as deadly; we were adrift in a pod of killer whales in the Canadian Pacific. And far from feeling any frisson of terror, our enthusiasm was boundless as the whales leapt heavily out of the water for a split second before flopping back in

water. Of course there were some disappointments; none of the whales close to us leapt completely clear of the water in the manner of Seaworld-type shows, but that is the pay-off for watching wild rather than trained creatures.

You also get the opportunity to play a great guessing game. You watch where a whale last disappeared into the water. Then you imagine it swimming below the surface, try to estimate the speed and direction it is going in, and then stare hard at a patch of water in the hope that it will emerge right in your line of vision. You hardly ever get it right, but with so many whales swimming

resident and transient. Resident whales spend their entire lives in a relatively small area, enabling them to be fairly easily found, and eat only salmon. Transient whales are harder to track down, and eat seals as well as salmon. On one occasion, our guide informed us, a seal leapt on to the boat in an attempt to escape the hunger of a transient. It perched at the front for a few minutes, but when its fear of the whale, who had disappeared, began to be replaced by fear of the occupants of the boat, it slithered back into the water – only to be greeted by the whale's jaws as it rushed up from its hiding-place in the deep.

The resident pods, which live a few miles from the shore of Vancouver Island, are closely monitored in an attempt to learn more about these creatures and so be better able to conserve them. They can be recognised by their fins, which are of varying shapes and sizes, though it takes a trained eye to differentiate them. The pods are made up of 20 to 80 whales. They are led by the oldest female, who may be up to 80 years old, but the males are the larger sex, with fins that are noticeably longer.

Their long lives make them harder to study than most other animals, so despite close observation, much of their behaviour is not fully understood. Breaching, for example, seems to expend a lot of energy without any particular purpose. One theory is that they leap out of the water to relieve an itch or shift parasites that may be taking up residence on their skin. The whales are known to go to "rubbing beaches" where they rub their sides and stomachs on the smooth rocks and pebbles. I'd like to think they do it for the sheer fun of it.

Learning about whales and hearing stories from the guide was enjoyable, but we took infinitely more pleasure from admiring the creatures as they breached, puffed, and then disappeared into the icy ocean. If it hadn't been so cold, we would have stayed there for hours, wasting less time taking shaky photographs and spending far longer just appreciating the whales. But we had to get back – leaving them in peace without the noise of engines deafening them and boiler-suited tourists gawping at their every move. They must have

been glad to see the back of us, and we were glad that, apart from having to put up with a few boats every day, they were free to roam their territory.

There's a great deal of competition across the Atlantic this summer – but it's mostly between would-be travellers searching for seals. The scheduled airlines flying from the UK to Vancouver are Air Canada (0990 347226) and a British Airways/Canadian Pacific codeshare operation. Air Canada has 12 flights a week

from Heathrow to Vancouver, while BA and Canadian each operate one service per day.

Scheduled fares to Vancouver in June are reasonable: until the end of this month, the BA/Canadian fare through discount agents is below £400 return. In July, this rises to more than £650. Charters from Gatwick on Air Transat cost as little as £237 in June through agents such as Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000), rising to a summer peak of £567.

Visit Canada Centre, 62-65 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DY (0891 715000)



A killer whale breaching near Canada's Vancouver Island. Photograph: Planet Earth

## Whale ways

Whale watching trips between May and October have become a big part of the ecotourism industry in British Columbia. Many tour operators around Victoria on Vancouver Island offer similar packages – some with on-board hydrophones to pick up sounds from the whales. Expect to pay around £35 per person for a three-hour day trip. Two well known local operators are Stubbs Island Charters (00 1 250 828 3185), which runs educational tours from Telegraph Cove, and Seacoast Expeditions (00 1 250 383 2234) which offers trips from Ocean Pointe Resort, focusing on killer whales and marine birds. For more information or a list of companies running trips, contact the Visit Canada Centre (0891 715000) or the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (01225 334511).



with the gargantuan grace of a jumbo jet coming in to land.

There were shortcomings. It was not a picture-perfect day – the clouds were low, the winds high, the seas choppy and extremely cold – and there wasn't a toilet within hours. You could hang off the back of the boat, but as we were dressed in thick boiler suits, and the temperatures were sub-zero, it wasn't a tempting option. We simply crossed our legs and paid attention to the whales.

They were well worth the effort. They made leaps out of the water – an exercise known as "breaching" – and some swam within feet of the boat, surfacing briefly and then disappearing again into the dark

around there's usually some activity not too far away.

We were floating in a pool of about 20 whales – a well-documented family resident in the area. The tour operators who take you out to find the whales are not allowed to approach them any closer than 100 yards. But when the boat drivers turn off the engines, more often than not the whales will swim up near you.

The tour groups are based on Vancouver Island, mainly in the city of Victoria. They try to keep track of the whales day by day, and some will even offer a money-back guarantee of seeing them. Many claim to have a 90 per cent success rate.

There are two main types of killer whale,

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Photographs: Geriant Lewis (top) and Richard Wayman

**Outward bound**  
Take a bus or train to the pretty village of Soagov to see "Dracula's" grave in, believe it or not, a monastery chapel set on an island in the middle of a lake. Vlad the Impaler, on whom Bram Stoker partly based his novel, was murdered in the surrounding woods and the monks, to whom he'd donated vast sums of money, took his body in and buried it. On the way you'll see striking evidence of Ceausescu's systematisation programme: apartment blocks built for hundreds of thousands of Romanians after he'd demolished their villages.

**FAX: 0171 293 2505**

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Chic  
galore

هكذا من الأصل



# Chic galore

Although the World Cup kicks off there on Wednesday, Paris is far from a laddish city. In fact it's perfect for a girls' weekend, writes  
**Miranda Haines**



Paris for girls - yesterday and today. 'Chic' has become T-shirt and skirt rather than formal elegance. Photos: MSI and Howard Barlow

**Friday**  
7am Paris in the springtime; Paris for lovers; Paris for World Cup fans. No, no, it's Paris pour les filles. Hurray! I'm off to visit my French girlfriend Corinne who is an artist and lives in the 11th arrondissement, not far from the Gare du Nord. Très handy for the Eurostar. Must remember not to look at the new Stade de France in St Denis and catch this football fever. Brrr.  
8am Huh. First of all I have to go to work for the day.  
10pm Paris. Taxi to Corinne's. Told l'homme he can do as he likes this weekend.

age.  
indies.

**Saturday**  
11am Woke up late and spent long time trying to look like a chic chick (ie very French) in a T-shirt and skirt. We walked thoughtfully with sunglasses on the nose to local boulangerie (no one around). As usual bought too many croissants and sat down in a downtrodden but branché (meaning "plugged in" or trendy) café with a terrasse in the sunshine. Ordered café crème and smoked five cigarettes deciding on our master plan for the day. Noticed that everyone was much more chic than me, even in the 11th arrondissement, so shopping was going to be a necessity.  
11.30am Headed for the 5th arrondissement. This is the Knightsbridge of Paris but an area with a lot more charm than the roaring Brompton Road. St Sulpice, St Germain and St Michel are good boundaries to set and every boutique is worth a peek.  
11.35am Bought a pair of beautiful sandals for lots of francs. At least the exchange rate is on my side. I swear I will not buy more things. Only looking now.  
12.15pm As we were looking at the summer frocks in Agnès B Corinne announced, "You should buy that dress". I looked at this pretty silky slip of a thing and tried to imagine when I might wear it in London. "It's much too smart," I insisted. "Boff," Corinne sighs, not without missing the opportunity to highlight the tragic difference between London and Paris. "I would wear that to go to the supermarché." Touché.  
1pm Lunch on Île St Louis in the café that

overlooks the Seine and is opposite the ice-cream shop where families queue up all day long. We ate a *salade parisienne* and drank a carafe of house white. All becomes quite hazy in the sun.

The Seine was choppy and sparkling so we felt tempted to organise a *bateau-mouche* (boat) ride. Naked bodies lay strewn in bathing suits along the paving stones down by the water's edge. A saxophonist blew harsh

perfumed, according to my *Millennium Rough Guide*. "I slurred," Corinne didn't believe me. But when I reminded her of the time that Yves St Laurent covered every inch of the bridge in roses, the idea took on a more reasonable resonance.

4pm *Bateau-mouche* was a brilliant way to see Paris and get a suntan. Can't believe I lived here for three years and never went on one. Corinne said that next time we could

Bastille and then dine on the Pont des Arts. This is a pedestrian bridge where people set up tables and white tablecloths and drink champagne over the Seine to the whine of a violinist, if they choose. I remember that Paris is also about dreams.

Midnight Forgot to get a facial. Too late now but am inspired to get one back home because apparently all the Parisian girls have them as regularly as having their nails done - ie every other week.

**Sunday**  
11am Slept well. Realise that this is how the Parisians are so good-looking, despite smoking so much (illegal, and unenforceable in public places).

Must remember that beauty sleep is a profession.  
1pm Picnic in the Luxembourg Gardens where children float boats on the lake, watch puppet shows with squeals of delight and swing around and around on a merry-go-round that was built in 1880.

Some men practised *l'ai chi* in the shade and nearby some very tall men swung low playing basket ball, while the rest simply sat and watched.

This is definitely the best Parisian park, no matter what the weather.

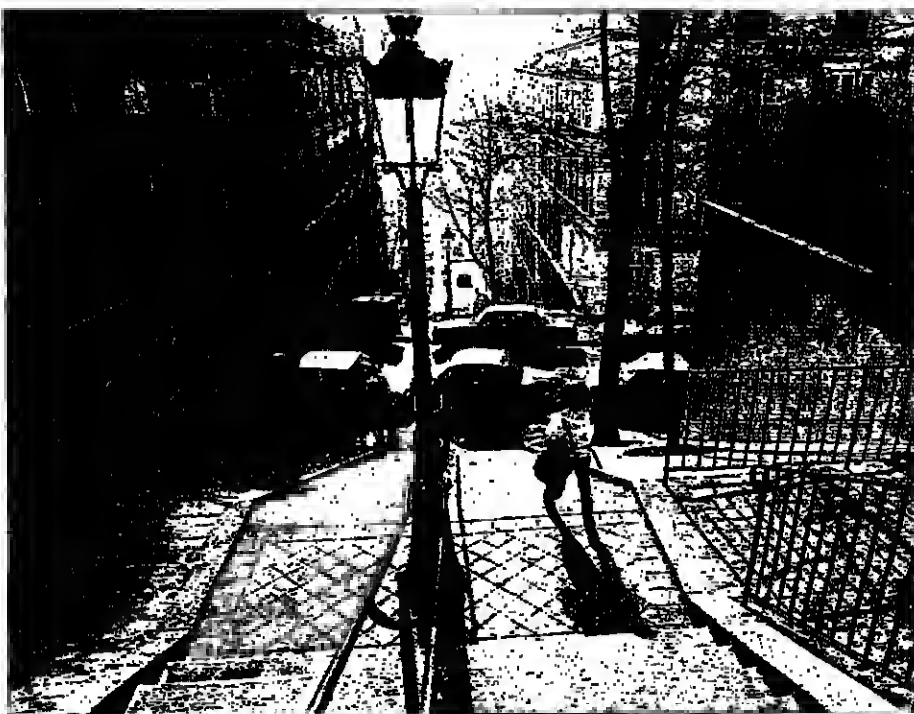
5pm Checked in at Gare du Nord and decided to upgrade to first class when I thought of Eric Cantona's philosophical advice about travelling on the Eurostar. For once I agreed with a football player - even if he was paid to say it.

**Monday**  
10pm Back in a London pub, and I remember that this is a city *pour les hommes*.

**One week later**  
Still haven't had that facial, or a long night's sleep.

*Restaurant La Muscade, 36 Rue de Montpensier 75001 Paris (00 33 1 42 97 51 36)*

Miranda Haines is the editor of 'Traveller', the magazine for members of the Wexat Travel Club.



blue notes from the Left Bank and in the small garden on the promontory beneath the Pont Neuf two men with bare torsos played bongo drums.

2.30pm (tipsy) Bought the guide *Pariscope* for 3 francs in order to look up the boat times. Decided to embark from the Pont Neuf (five minutes' walk) at 4pm and chug up to the Eiffel Tower and back. "The Tour Eiffel" will lay an egg on the eve of the millennium celebrations and the Seine will be

take a boat all the way up the Canal St Martin, which takes you through a Paris that is rarely seen.

9pm Arrived at La Muscade, a restaurant in the Jardin du Palais Royal. Very pleased to be sitting in such palatial splendour away from the hustle of the streets, with views of the formal garden and perfectly clipped avenues of trees.

We agreed that the next weekend in Paris we would book tickets to the Opéra at the

## Through the arches of Islam in Paris

A mosque tucked away in the Latin Quarter has become a surprising tourist attraction. Rhiannon Batten took a guided tour

A flock of middle-aged French ladies swarmed around the guide at Paris Mosque as if he was the French answer to Daniel O'Donnell. One woman in particular, decked out in a flamboyant scarf and a streak of fuchsia-pink lipstick, seemed determined to monopolise him, out-questioning the other visiting women by several rounds. In fashion terms the guide would surely have gained the approval of Mr O'Donnell. His T-shirt was patterned with swirls of bitter chocolate and fudge, slotting him into the woodwork of the Mosque library like one of the contents of a tray of Terry's Black Magic. The library itself was beautiful, coming as it did in stolen glimpses behind the guide's wafting hands and ever-expanding smile.

It was not difficult to share his enthusiasm for his surroundings. I'd seen guided visits of a mosque advertised and had been intrigued by this rather surprising tourist attraction. It was far from disappointing. Walking in off a grey and dusty street in the Latin Quarter was like entering a different continent. The entrance was dark and gloomy, its corners littered with curious eyes. The gloom did not prepare me, however, for the sudden whiteness and peace of the main courtyard. Similar in style to parts of the Alhambra, it was big and glaring, the opening to the sky framed by a dark wooden rectangle of ornate carving. From this rectangle, the whiteness trickled down into glinting blue tilework half-way down the walls.

As you walk around the heavy central bowl, more and more of the site slowly comes into view through pretty windows and tempting archways. Through one of these arches was a garden.

The birds there were probably nothing like as exotic as they sounded but it was difficult not to let the imagination run riot. Set against the dazzling whitewashed walls the greenery seemed almost too vivid to be real.

The next arch was nearly obscured by a stack of

**Walking in off the grey and dusty street in the Latin Quarter was like entering a different continent**

shoes strewn across its entrance. Visitors are not allowed inside the prayer room but nobody seems to mind if you peer in quietly from the outside. The atmosphere inside was yet another contrast to the rest of the building, this time being softer and darker. Light trickles in through windows high up on a wall and shines out softly from lamps suspended from the ceiling. The room is red in colour, reflecting off the red of the carpet and turning people praying inside a delicate shade of rose.

In the library, the wooden floor slats squeaked grumpily underfoot. Averting my eyes, I looked up to the ceiling. It was decorated with three enormous flowers, their carved shapes picked out by the light fumbling its way in through small, rectangular windows. Hanging from this display were several incompetent but attractive lights, comically shaped rather like hookahs.

Shuffling out of the mosque past two irate Americans who were incredulous at having had to pay to get in, I made for the mosque café in search of a cup of soothing mint tea.

Entering strong-willed, I walked straight past a cabinet of sweet sticky cakes and headed for the courtyard room, built in the same style as the mosque. The other option was an indoor room, decorated like the inside of a Bedouin tent with a touch of prayer room thrown in: cosy, rich red sofas low down on the ground and a carpet that seemed to have crawled its way up the walls.

Sipping my glass of mint tea was like indulging in a dream-like therapy, with all the strains of the city being gently soothed out of the system.

*Mosque de Paris, rue Daubenton 5e (Métro Censier-Daubenton). Open 9am-noon and 2pm-6pm, closed Fridays and Muslim holidays. There are often guides, and everywhere is open to visitors except the prayer room. Admission 15F adults, 10F students and children. Café de la Mosquée, 39 rue Geoffroy-St-Hilaire, 5e (Métro Censier-Daubenton). Open Mon-Thurs, Sat and Sun 10am-9.30pm*

## RED CHANNEL

France is experiencing its most serious summer of discontent since 1968. Air France has cancelled about two flights in three this week because of the pilots' strike. Yet this dispute need not be a disaster. To save cash, the airline had already substantially cut back its

flights to the UK over the past few years. Routes such as Heathrow-Nice were abandoned; this one has now returned to the schedules, but is operated by British Midland and is not threatened by the industrial action.

Most flights to France serve Paris, a city to which -

thanks to Eurostar trains through the Tunnel - there is massive overcapacity. Even with the thousands travelling this weekend to the French capital, there will still be plenty of room: trains seating a total of 18,000 people make the journey every day.

The British travellers most

likely to be affected are those who have bought long-haul, discounted tickets on Air France. With the number of cancellations being made by the official World Cup airline, trips such as Birmingham to Bogotà or Manchester to Madagascar could be jeopardised.

## GREEN CHANNEL

How to cut an environmental dash in France this summer - a sprinkling of useful eco-words and phrases from Lonely Planet's *French Phrasebook* (£3.99):

la couche d'ozone = ozone layer  
les déchets toxiques = toxic waste

l'effet de serre = greenhouse effect  
un essai nucléaire = nuclear testing  
le papier recyclé = recycled paper  
les pluies acides = acid rain  
la pollution des eaux = water pollution  
le pot catalytique = catalytic converter

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This 3-star family-style hotel is located close to the heart of Sorrento and its main sights. It has 52 rooms each with ensuite facilities while the public areas include a restaurant, bar, lounge and air-conditioning. There is also a terrace and swimming pool.

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Parkland red deer are still shot in the open – but for how much longer?

## Anyone for antler pie?

Last week, in the splendour of the Sculpture Gallery at Woburn Abbey, 70 deer farmers and park keepers assembled to discuss the baffling intricacies of the venison trade. Rough country clothes looked slightly out of place against the crimson walls; yet the wider setting was appropriate, for outside the windows lay Woburn's own 3,000-acre deer park, one of the finest in England, with 11 species on view.

The conference was called by the British Deer Farmers' Association (BDFA), and its theme was "Park venison – an undervalued resource?" For various reasons, farmers can get a much higher price for their meat than park keepers can, and the BDFA was urging the park men to produce better carcasses.

Until about 30 years ago, venison came principally from two sources: wild deer, and the herds in parks surrounding country houses. Then in 1970 the first farm was started at Glenshagh, in Kincardineshire, with wild red deer driven into enclosures off the hill. Because the calves were picked up and bottle fed, they became completely tame, and could be managed like sheep or cattle.

The success of this new form of husbandry led to a rapid proliferation of farms and a sharp demand for stock. At its zenith, in the Eighties, the BDFA had 700 members, and a single red deer hind could fetch £1,000. Then the bubble burst. People who had rushed in, scenting quick fortunes, opted out when they realised that a long, hard slog lay ahead, and today the Assoc-

Now that venison has become a popular lean meat, what is the most economic, humane way to manage the deer? Duff Hart-Davis investigates

iation has only 200 members. These, however, are what their vice-chairman John Fletcher calls "serious enthusiasts", and their mood is optimistic.

At first farmers were so busy building their herds that selling venison seemed a secondary consideration; but gradually farmed venison won itself a reputation as an excellent red meat, lean and healthy, whose quality could be guaranteed because it had been properly handled and came from young animals slaughtered with minimal stress. For nearly two decades producers were able to sell whole carcasses at £1.35 per pound, and in the past two years the price has been steady at £1.80, with consumption increasing rapidly.

Wild venison, meanwhile, has retained a cachet that no tame product can match; yet over the past few years its price has fluctuated wildly, from a low of 30p per pound after the collapse of Communism, when barriers in Europe came down and a flood of East German and Polish meat swamped West Germany – traditionally the most voracious buyer of deer from the Scottish Highlands – to a high of £2 during the BSE crisis, when people were scared off beef. It has

now fallen back to about 60p, only a third of the farmed price.

Several factors militate against wild producers getting better money. One is that deer are often shot at long range, or in bad light, or by amateurs, so that the rifle bullet extensively damages the carcass; another – particularly in the Scottish Highlands – is that most estates wait till stags are mature before culling them, and beasts of 10 or 12 are liable to be as tough as old boots. Landowners cannot even claim that wild venison is organic, because they do not know for sure what the wide-ranging deer have fed on.

Occupying the middle ground, between wilderness and domesticity, are the deer parks. In contrast with farmed deer (which are tame enough to be corralled, and are dispatched on the premises with a humane killer or sent by lorry to a slaughterhouse) most park deer are still shot in the open. The aim, either way, is to minimise stress, both for humane reasons and because anxiety increases the amount of lactic acid in muscle, making meat tough; but controversy rages about which method is best.

Not only that: human sensitivities come strongly into the equation. Among super-

market chains, Tesco and Waitrose refuse to handle deer shot in the open, but Sainsbury's is also a declared believer in the merits of field shooting.

At last week's meeting, members of the Association revealed that, because of their own success in marketing high-quality venison, they cannot now satisfy the demand, and they challenged the park keepers to raise standards of carcass production to match their own. But the representative from the park at Chatsworth cried out, "We have a moral duty not to let sanitisation rule!" and one of the most fluent papers came from "Blue" Thomas, a freelance deer manager, who stuck up for traditional methods, pointing out that in most parks policy is strongly influenced by aesthetic considerations. Owners, he said, like to see plenty of red stags or fallow bucks with good antlers – more than make ideal breeding ratios – and they do not want their rolling acres criss-crossed by unsightly internal fences or pens.

If the symposium produced no dramatic new initiatives, it did set everyone talking, and participants went away with as many ideas in their heads as the astonishing red stags at Woburn carry points on their antlers. In the Highlands a 12-pointer is known as a Royal, a 14-pointer (exceedingly rare) as an Imperial. At Woburn stags grow that many points at two years old, and the park's record beast, Berry End, produced 40.

## Wildlife returns to the bog

Shropshire's peat lands, once dug for commercial gain, are now a bustling haven, writes Malcolm Smith

Standing in the middle of Fenn's Moss on the Shropshire/Welsh border, with cotton sedge wafting white in the evening breeze, teal fighting on to pools and blue dragonflies and a myriad of other insects flitting across a sponge of red and yellow bog mosses, it's incredible to think that all of this could have ended up in Growbags.

That is no exaggeration. When Dr Joan Daniels was first employed, in May 1991, to manage the Moss as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) for the Countryside Council for Wales and English Nature, 350 acres were being mechanically cut to harvest horticultural peat. The company concerned had obtained planning consent to dig the black lifeblood out of this wetland and had rented a further 300 acres that they could have exploited later. A devastating network of peat-cutting ditches was rapidly draining the Moss of its vital rainwater, killing its animal and plant life at the same time.

"When I first saw the Moss, it was like a desert, there had been so much drainage and peat cutting," recalls Joan Daniels. "A myriad of drains had been opened to take the water away. Every 11 yards of bare, stacked peat had a two-yard strip of vegetation left high and dry above the falling water table. It went across the Moss like this almost as far as you could see."

Not now. This huge Moss – Fenn's, Whixall, Bertisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses, to give the full local title – is a peatland success story. Instead of ending up in the potting shed to grow geraniums, the peat hereabouts will stay where nature intended it to.

All of the remaining Moss (it once covered perhaps 5,000 acres), plus some marginal land draining on to it, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and extends to 2,387 acres. Of this, 1,421 acres is NNR, while the Shropshire Wildlife Trust has around 80 acres on Wem Moss. The rest of the site is privately owned, though some of it has protective management agreements. The future of the bulk of the NNR was recently secured for the long term when the Countryside Council for Wales announced that it had bought a 99-year lease on the land.

Since Joan Daniels has been there, her team of four estate workers (all of whom, ironically, previously worked for the peat-cutting company) supplemented by gangs of volunteers, have been damming the vast number of drains – usually by plugging them with peat – and clearing much of the birch scrub that had grown up under the artificially drier conditions.

A multitude of bog mosses, cotton sedge and much rarer plants such as the pale-pink-flowered rosemary and the scimitar-leaved, yellow-flowering bog asphodel have burgeoned as water levels have naturally re-wetted the formerly arid peat, rising by as much as 6ft.

With the return of the native peatland plants have come the wetland insects, no fewer than 1,700 different species of them. Among the special residents are the orange-

brown large heath butterfly, a spectacular dragonfly (the rarest of several dragonfly species here) called the white-faced darter, and the raft spider, a hunter that sits on floating water plants.

Birds, too, are on the up. The numbers of breeding pairs of curlew, lapwing, skylark and meadow pipit have all increased because they can now utilise more of the Moss. In winter, it's again full of wildfowl and waders – mallard, teal, snipe. New species such as spotted redshank are visiting, while uncommon birds of prey such as the hobby (a falcon) and marsh harrier are starting to check out the site's credentials.

In the turnaround from peat exploitation to peat conservation, the five centuries or so of human use of the Mosses hasn't been forgotten. Remains of six peat processing works, including the only on-site British example of a diesel engine powering peat presses, are preserved for posterity to make the historic link between the wetland and its past exploitation. There are even re-

**Instead of ending up in the potting shed to grow geraniums, the peat hereabouts will stay where nature intended it to**

mains to be found of larger-scale conflicts. The Mosses were used in both world wars for rifle ranges and in the Second World War as a practice bombing range, and as part of an elaborate decoy site to distract German bombers away from Liverpool. In the event, Liverpool suffered appallingly but the Mosses got away without being ignited.

Surrounded by intensive, flat farmland with dairy and beef cattle, crops such as maize and oilseed rape, and by woodland, Fenn's Moss is something of an enigma. It is virtually invisible from every direction and, until you are out in the middle of the place, it is difficult to comprehend that such a large wetland – at least by British standards – is being re-created in the midst of some of the most intensively farmed lowlands.

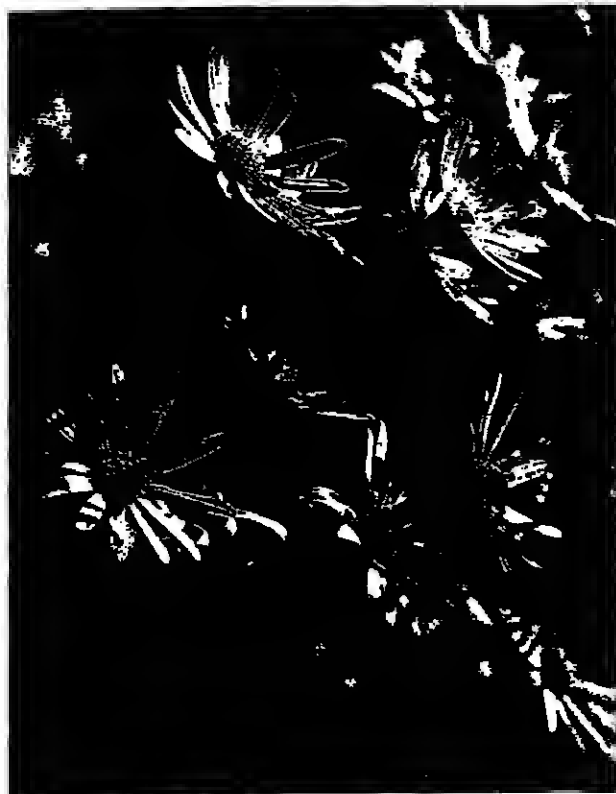
This type of wetland is now all too rare. Moss has been drained and converted to farmland, or dug up to enrich millions of gardens at the expense of the plants it should naturally nurture. There are perhaps 25,000 acres left in Britain (only a 20th of what there was in 1850), and Fenn's Moss comprises about 13 per cent of it. Not only that, but it is the third largest example of this type of wetland remaining in Britain.

To visit Fenn's Moss you need a permit from the site manager, for safety reasons. Or join one of the free guided walks on the site, on the last Sundays in June and July. Details from Dr Joan Daniels, English Nature, Manor House, Moss Lane, Whixall, Shropshire (01948 880 362)

## NATURE NOTE

Not before time, landowners in the Midlands have launched a mass attack on that noxious weed ragwort, which grows strongly on poor soil, and most noticeably on motorway embankments. While alive it is not much of a threat; it has a rather harsh smell, and is not attractive to herbivores. But once it is cut and wilting it becomes both palatable and highly toxic to cattle, sheep and horses, causing irreversible liver damage in any animal that eats a few pounds of it.

Ragwort has taken such a grip in Cheshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire that members of the Country Landowners' Association have started a campaign against it under the slogan "Rout Ragwort '98", supported by the Highways Agency, English Nature and various county councils. The weed is by no means easy to eradicate, for a single plant can produce 150,000 seeds, which are distributed by the wind and can lie dormant in



the soil for up to 20 years before they germinate. Young plants can be knocked out with herbicides, but spraying is liable to exterminate desirable wild flowers as well, and fields treated with weedkillers cannot be used for grazing for several weeks. Cutting is

useless, because the ragwort's roots just grow again more strongly. The best answer is the most laborious – to pull or dig plants out one by one, roots and all, and then to burn every scrap.

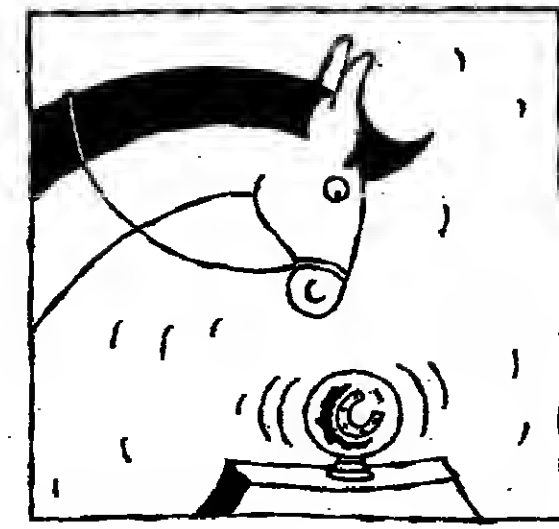
Duff Hart-Davis

## What's on this weekend

You can buy Crown Derby, a horse, or a vision of the future, this weekend at Appleby-in-Westmorland, a small town lying in the Eden valley between the Lake District and the Pennines. The Appleby Horse Fair is the biggest annual gathering of the Romany people, who travel here from all over the country in an assortment of vehicles, including the beautifully painted horse-drawn vardos. The right to hold the fair, which takes place on Gallows Hill, was established by royal charter in 1685.

The Appleby Horse Fair runs until 10 June, with the main horse-trading day on Wednesday, 10 June

Sally Kindberg



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# A glass apart

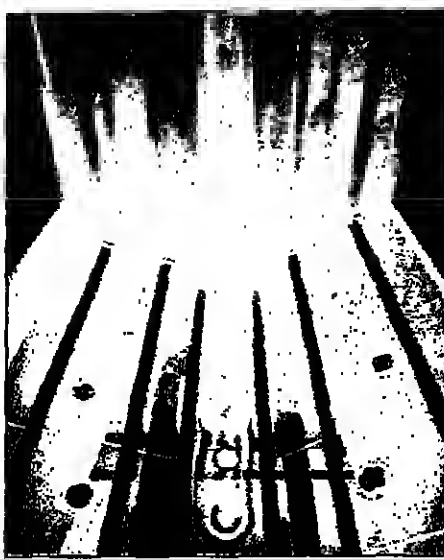
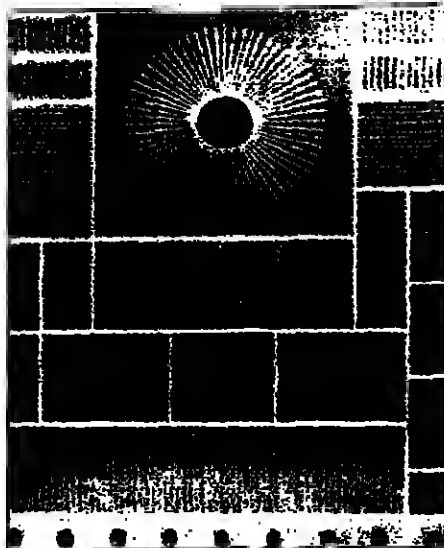
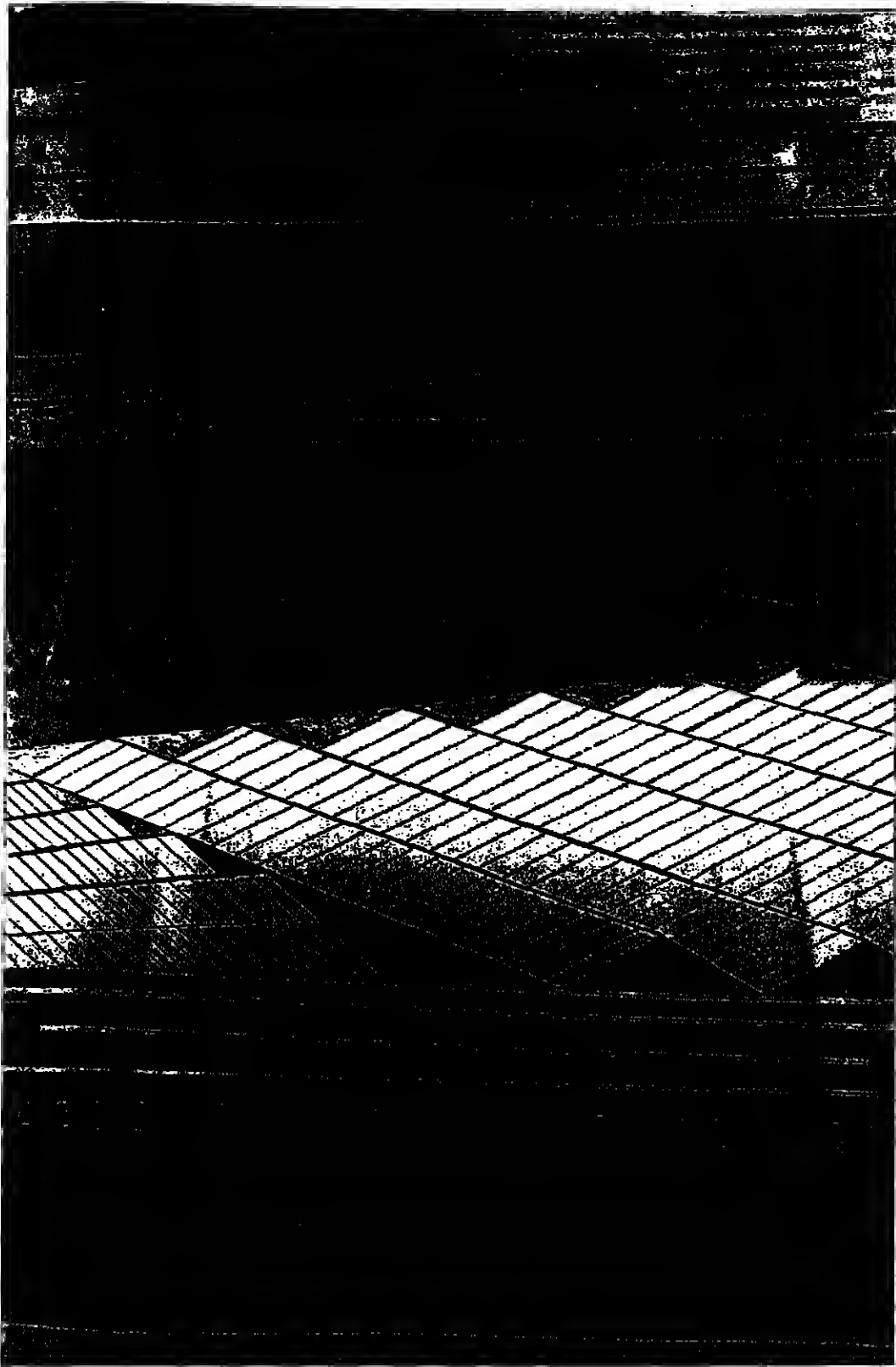
Colour and light are the most important aspects of Sasha Ward's opaque art. Claire Gervat meets a master of abstractions

Sasha Ward knew her aim in life from an early age. "It always surprises people, but I decided when I was at school that I wanted to do stained glass." Or rather, strictly speaking, not stained glass, since she has adapted the technique to modern building methods. "I try to keep the idea and the feeling of colour, light and beauty, but I use ordinary window glass and then do things to it, such as etching or sandblasting, then hand-painting or screen-printing with transparent enamel." The effect is spectacular, more like a glass painting than painted glass.

She has a long list of private and public works to her credit. In Leeds General Infirmary, for instance, her colourful glass piece, more than 20ft across, is set in the lobby ceiling. "I've done a lot of hospitals recently - but I like creating pieces for houses and people as well."

Many of her private commissions have come from people who have seen her work by chance. For her, the first step is to visit the clients at home. "I have done commissions through the post, but I wanted to work in and for buildings. It's important for me to make sure the window fits in with the whole place."

The key elements to discuss are the colours and technicalities, such as how much light needs to come through the glass. If it's intended to hide a horrible view, for instance, it may have to be almost opaque. Sasha comments: "I've learnt a lot about the effects I can get with stripes or dots, sandblasting or texture. It's often those sort of abstract qualities that I talk about with people, and only then whether there



Sasha Ward's windows - at the Sheriff's Court, Edinburgh (far left); the Corn Exchange, Newbury (top left); Frimley Park Hospital (middle left); and Popley Community Centre (bottom)

is something like a theme - as long as I'm allowed to twist it my own way."

For her preliminary drawings she often works in watercolour, which makes perfect sense when you see the finished glass with its washes of colour built up in layers. It's also a clue to a wider artistic education. "I chose my first college because I could do stained glass there. But then I thought, 'I want to do fine art', because the important thing for me in a way was the colour, imagery and interesting ideas. So I did a fine art degree and then went back to do glass at the Royal College of Art."

For domestic-sized pieces, Sasha charges £200 per square foot, a price she admits hasn't changed in 10 years. Larger works cost less per foot as there's proportionately less design time. The whole commissioning process takes about two months. Sasha has the nous to realise that people who have spent several hundred pounds on a work of art may not want to leave it behind when they move, so she's devised a special wire hanging system, too.

She is currently rebuilding her studio. "It's leaking, and I've decided it's cheaper to knock it down. I'll be able to have my own massive kiln there, and do really large pieces. I'm looking forward to it, because I still like the 'hands-on' bit more than doing designs for other people to make up."

She also has a continuing relationship with the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum in Bournemouth, which has old stained glass. "The next one is a ceiling, which is going to have water trickling on the outside over the textured glass."

As for the public reaction to her larger works: "If you produce a painting of nothing, people tend to say, 'that's nothing'. But if it's glass of nothing, they seem to think that's fine. And if they can't work out what it is, it doesn't worry them."

Sasha Ward is at 19 Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4AD (01672 515638).

## GAMES

### WHEN IS A PUZZLE NOT A PUZZLE? CHRIS MASLANKA PONDERES THE NATURE OF PERPLEXITY

When asked to present a programme called *Puzzle Panel* on Radio 4, my thoughts turned to the tricky question of what a puzzle really is. Well, perhaps knowing what a puzzle isn't will enable me to creep up on the answer. Puzzles are not quizzes. The term 'quiz' is best reserved for those questions whose appeal is to facts, particularly to arbitrary ones. The delight in answering:

Q1: Who is the richest member of Donald Duck's family?

resides in the bravado of claiming acquaintance with such useless knowledge combined with surprise at being able to recall it. Some quiz questions, such as:

Q2: Which animal produces the biggest egg?  
an jog basic assumptions, though in a different way from puzzles. Compare:

Q3: Which of the musketeers wore the biggest hat?

And some facts seem intrinsically fascinating. Through the gloom of the ignorance of what we ought to know, they shine out like beacons, exceptions more interesting than any rule.

Of course, if such questions turned up on the national curriculum, they would lose their attraction. The trivial in *Trivial Pursuit* tips us the wink: it is fun because it doesn't matter.

Puzzles are not about remembering particular facts, not even fascinating ones. Engaging trick questions such as David Singmaster's:

Q4: What year was it 2000 years ago?

though having implications beyond the facts on which they depend, are probably not true puzzles. True puzzles are a test of creativity. They pit us against the unknown in a quest whose goal is by no means assured, and require so much ingenuity that the focus is more on the strategy than on the prize.

This level of challenge doesn't suit everyone. Six-year-olds, for example, are too busy acquiring concrete experience to derive much pleasure from purely conceptual puzzles. They want activities to affirm their ideas, not turn them upside down. Rules must be learnt before we can enjoy breaking them.

Such activities stand in relation to true puzzles much as early labyrinths do to Hampton Court's maze. In the former, perseverance guarantees success since the path leads without branching to the goal. But for most of us a true maze is one in which we can get lost. Both approaches are combined in the maze designed by Professor Angela Newing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Painswick House in Gloucestershire, the topographical figures "2", "5", "0" cunningly incorporate a simple "activity" maze

in the "0" and something more devilish in the "25". The maze will open later this year.

Nor are puzzles problems. When called upon to solve a quadratic, say, we are no longer intrepid explorers but followers of a doctrine established by others and taught to us perhaps by rote. The first to discover the general method had the Eureka-buzz of conquering new territory, leaving us the clerk-like task of applying it (yawn) to particular cases.

Because the solution to a puzzle is not so much a fact as a way of thinking, solving one puzzle helps in solving others. Jim L. Fixx said there are two sorts of people: those who enjoy puzzles and those who don't. I do not agree. I think we all enjoy puzzles, but because of our different intellectual styles and attainments we don't all enjoy the same sort. A good puzzle is one that does not rely on specialised knowledge, and offers different methods of solution to suit different styles. Rather like Newing's maze. Great minds, after all, do not think alike.

SOLUTIONS: Q1: Scrooge McDuck. Q2: The whale shark. Q3: The one with the biggest head. Q4: 3BC, since there was 00 year 0.

Chris Maslanka presents 'Puzzle Panel' on Radio 4, Thursdays at 1.30pm, repeated Sundays at 11pm.

### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Louis Theroux, 28, television presenter and journalist

I thought I needed to go out on Friday nights, but in fact I'm quite happy to sit and play backgammon or draughts, which is interesting because I suppose that's a part of approaching middle age.

It's hard to think of the earliest game I ever played. When I was at school, we used to play social games. That's not a very good word for it; I suppose they were rather unsophisticated pranks. One was called the *touching game*, whereby you and a friend would stand around in the West End of London and pick out strangers for each other to touch.

It sounds quite rude, but obviously you wouldn't touch their privates. It was just a way of trying to transgress in a controlled environment. And potentially dangerous if you were told to touch a well-muscled builder.

Occasionally, when I was 16 years old, I'd play a horrible game. We would stand by the side of a road, looking as though we

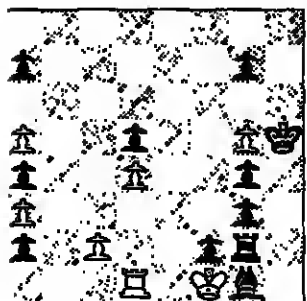
wanted to cross it. Cars would come up and slow right down, and then just as they were on the verge of stopping, they'd see that we weren't making any move whatsoever, and the drivers would shout: "You \*\*\*\*\* idiots".

When I was seven or eight years old, I loved the idea of being a chess prodigy, but I've actually never won a single game in my whole life. It's not as though I'd memorised a Spassky opening or anything. But then this friend of mine devised a version called *flick-chess*.

You set up the pieces as for normal chess, then you flick them as hard as you can so that you knock your opponent's pieces off the board. It's painful but quite fun. They fly off pretty fast. Chess enthusiasts don't really see the point.

Louis Theroux will be exploring further excesses of American subculture in a second series of his *Weird Weekends* in December on BBC2, starting with a Christmas Special. *Flick-chess* is best played with heavy-duty plastic pieces.

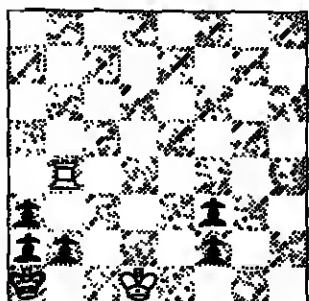
### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON



I found these two positions in Jeremy Morse's remarkable book *Chess Problems: Tasks and Records* (published in 1995 by Faber & Faber). They are both examples of that exotic genre, the series-help-stalemate, which means that Black makes all the moves to lead to a position in which White can play one move, leaving Black stalemated. In the course of Black's moves, he may not move into check nor may he deliver a check, except possibly on his final move. The solution of the first position should give you the idea. You have 28 moves to accomplish the task.

Since no black piece can be captured before the final move, he must somehow contrive to gum up his rook and bishop, which means getting a piece to h2. But another bishop can't get there and a knight would deliver check, and any other piece would need h1 and h3 filled as well, and then what's to stop the piece on h3 from moving?

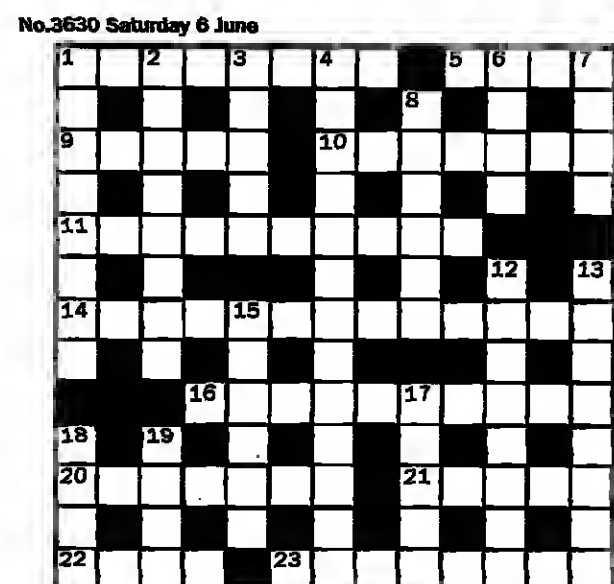
The task soon becomes like trying to stick a cork back into a bottle of frothing liquid.



Eventually you realise that Black must leave his king on h5 and fill up the squares from h1 to h4 before finally playing g5 and allowing White to stalemate with Rd6.

Here's how it is done:  
1.a1=Q, 2.Qxa3, 3.Qe7, 4.a3, 5.a2, 6.a1=Q, 7.Qxa5, 8.Qad8, 9.a5, 10.a4, 11.a3, 12.a2, 13.a1=Q, 14.Qxd4, 15.Qd6, 16.d4, 17.d3, 18.dxc2, 19.c1=Q, 20.Qc5, 21.Qb4, 22.Qb1, 23.Qb4, 24.Qb2, 25.Qb4, 26.Qb4, 27.Qb4, 28.g5 and now Rd6 does it.  
In the second position, it's just 16 moves to stalemate, but finding a way to gum up those black pawns is far from straightforward. If you fiddle around with black pieces in the corner, you'll see that the only hope is to promote four pawns to end with a rook on a2, bishop on b2 and bishop or queen on a1, with the final piece captured on the b-file. Answer: 1.b1=N 2.Nd2, 3.Nb3, 4.Kb1, 5.a1=B, 6.Bc3, 7.Bc1, 8.f1=R, 9.Rf2, 10.Ra2, 11.f2, 12.f1=Q, 13.Qb6, 14.Qa1, 15.Bc3, 16.Bb2 and finally Rd6 is stalemate. A beautiful construction.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Volatile rodents (8)
  - 5 Predicament (4)
  - 9 School subject (5)
  - 10 Toward the sheltered side (7)
  - 11 Showed persistence (10)
  - 14 Authority to enter premises (6-7)
  - 16 Insufficient (10)
  - 20 Kettledrums (7)
  - 21 Greek letter (5)
  - 22 Adhesive strength (4)
  - 23 Distress (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Item of street furniture (4-4)
  - 2 On one's mother's side (8)
  - 3 Question (5)
  - 4 Fiftieth anniversary (6,7)
  - 6 Gemstone (4)
  - 7 Purposes (4)
  - 8 Superficial appearance (6)
  - 12 Oriental language (8)
  - 13 Cheapest passenger ship fare (8)
  - 15 Heavy, durable cloth (6)
  - 17 Gulf state (5)
  - 18 Cheque counterfoil (4)
  - 19 So be it (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:  
ACROSS: 1 Belle, 4 Tip (Belt up), 7 Flan, 8 Prodigal, 9 Family doctor, 10 Origin, 13 Eschew, 15 Scotch whisky, 19 First aid, 20 Blue, 21 Gas, 22 Entry, DOWN: 1 Balsa, 2 Landing, 3 Zippy, 4 Taint, 5 Prairie, 6 Morsure, 11 Resting, 12 Nectar, 14 Climber, 16 Oasis, 17 Wedge, 18 Kitty.

### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Game all; dealer South			
North			
♠A3			
♥A985			
♦J53			
♣A1084			
East			
♠K62			
♥K1063			
♦1098			
♣K52			
South			
♠QJ109874			
♥Q7			
♦AKQ			
♣7			

You have to be far-sighted at this game to achieve the best results. I have an instinctive feeling that only a minority of players would have succeeded on this deal. Certainly South was not among their number.

South opened One Spade, North responded Two Clubs, and South jumped to Three Spades. North, rather wildly, brought out the sledgehammer of Roman Key Card Blackwood and, on learning that either ♠A or ♠K was missing, raised to Six Spades. West led ♠10 against the slam and, after winning, South led and ran ♠Q successfully. West, of course, did not cover.

With high hopes, declarer cashed ♠A but the king did not fall and East had the opportunity to signal helpfully with ♠Q. South played off the top diamonds and exited with a trump but West had received his partner's message and got off lead safely with a club. Now, eventually, South had to lose a heart trick.

Well, how would a more thoughtful declarer have tackled the hand? They would realise that, should West have a natural trump trick, it would be necessary to remove all of his safe exit cards before throwing him in. With that in mind, the best sequence of play is clear:

Cash ♠A at trick two and ruff a club, then take the trump finesse and try ♠A. Unsuccessfully. Now another club ruff follows and, after cashing the remaining top diamonds, South finally gets off lead with a trump, having now reduced West to hearts alone.

### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

Over the years that I have written this column I am conscious of the fact that I have neither published, nor analysed, a complete game. In giving instruction it is easier to make a point about a position than about a whole game.

However, all the really strong players have spent many hours studying matches in depth, move by move. This is because you must understand not only the tactics of each position as it arises, but also the dynamics of playing the game itself. Backgammon is not played in a void but in a world where emotion plays a large part in the decision-making process (this is not true of our silicon friends, but we'll leave them out of it for the moment). The best players keep their emotions under control, but even they have occasional lapses when a really dramatic turnaround occurs.

One of the first things that you notice from studying matches is the number of difficult decisions each player has to make in a single game. The advent of computer analysis has shown us that, if the wrong game plan is chosen, there can be quite big equity differences on even apparently the most simple of moves.

I am going to start with a short game from the 1994 world championships between Peter Thomsen (Black) and Frank Frigo (White). You are advised to use a board to play through the moves:

On his first move White rolled 62 and played 24/18, 13/11. Black countered with 21, and played 13/11, 8/7. White's second roll was 21 and already he faced choices. He can play bar/24, 13/11; bar/22; bar/23, 6/5. Frigo chose bar/23, 6/5. This looks a little wide open with blots everywhere but often an aggressive style in the opening pays dividends. The weakest choice is bar/24, 13/11 that does nothing much to improve White's position. I like Frigo's choice.

Black rolled 62 and played the obvious and best 11/5, 7/5 though note that even here there are choices and you should at least notice that 13/7, 24/22 is a possibility. White's third roll was 22 and again he faced a difficult choice. There are at least six reasonable choices. I will leave you to find them before next week's article.

'Backgammon: an Independent View' - an anthology of Chris Bray's writings in 'The Independent' and elsewhere - is available from: C Bray, 18 Glendower Road, London SW18 8NY (£11.99 + £1.25 p&p).

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Students on West Dean College's weekend life drawing course - one of the chief considerations is choosing a good angle

Photograph: Russell Sach. Illustrations: Reader's Digest

## This cow has horns

A taste of ... buffalo mozzarella from southern Italy.  
By Nikki Spencer

The idea of water buffalo roaming the Italian countryside may seem incongruous, but these beasts of burden arrived in the Mediterranean country from China as long ago as 1596, and the porcelain-white cheese made from their milk is increasingly in demand all over the world.

Whereas cows' milk mozzarella is pretty bland, *mozzarella di bufala* has an earthy - almost mossy - taste. This is in part due to the marshland of Campania around Naples, where most of the herds are reared. Originally buffalo were kept here simply because they were practically the only animals that could survive the bleak conditions. For hundreds of years the peasant farmers sold the cheese they made from the milk for next to nothing, until their product caught on with the foodies of Naples and became fashionable.

As with many Italian ingredients, things started to take off for buffalo mozzarella in the Sixties and Seventies, with the development of tourism and the arrival of an Italian trattoria on nearly every high street in this country.

Patricia Michelson started selling buffalo mozzarella in her London cheese shop, La Fromagerie, when she first opened for business seven years ago, although she says some customers still take a while to come round to the idea that it's made from real buffalo milk. "People can't quite believe that there are buffalo living in Italy," she says.

However, the cheese is now in such demand that Italy is not the only place you'll find the cattle today. In 1991 Bob Palmer and his wife imported buffalo into Britain. Now they have a herd of 200 on their farm in Warwickshire, and they produce their own buffalo mozzarella which they sell, in a coals-to-Newcastle arrangement, to an Italian wholesaler. They have also used the milk to make yoghurt and ice-cream.

Bob claims that the cattle adapt superbly to our environment. "Buffalo have different sweat glands to cows, which means they're less heat tolerant. So in many ways they are better off in a climate like ours, particularly during a summer like this one," he says.

### Buffalo trails

• The best buffalo mozzarella is produced on the farms themselves, but with increasing commercialisation the milk is also dried or frozen so that cheese can be made on a larger scale in factories. Among other outlets, you can buy farmhouse *mozzarella di bufala* from the village of Battipaglia, just south of Naples, and from La Fromagerie, 30 Highbury Park, London N5 (0171-359 7440) for £4.25 for 30g. • Milk is not the only popular buffalo product. The meat is increasingly sought after because it is lower in cholesterol and higher in mineral content than beef - and because there has been no incidence of BSE in buffalo. You can buy British buffalo meat by mail order from Barrow Boar, Foster's Farm, South Barrow, Yeovil, Somerset (01963 440315). Supplies are still limited, so the meat is expensive: £27 per kilo for rump steak.

# The naked truth

When you try your hand at life drawing you reveal more of yourself than you would if you were posing nude. Sally Staples joins a weekend course

Zoe Williams is lying naked on a low divan while a dozen people wander round her checking out the best angles. All over the walls of the art studio are half-finished images of Zoe - some bearing an astonishing likeness and others doing her no credit at all.

It is intriguing that one artist's pencil has produced a slyph-like stunner while another has made this beautiful young girl look like a she-elephant. Does this bother the model? Zoe says not.

"Being a life model is a bizarre process, but as a fine art student I have done life drawing myself and I do understand how the students feel. They are terribly judgemental about their pictures, and I think you reveal much more of yourself when you put something on paper than you do standing here with all your clothes off."

"I am the only naked person in the room and they are drawing me, but at the same time I cease to be a person. They are drawing what they see. It has nothing to do with the real me. I think there is an idea that a life model should be romantic or Bohemian in some way, and if that is what people see then that is what they try to create."

The students on this weekend life-drawing class at West Dean College in Sussex range from a retired GP in his eighties to housewives in their twenties. Some have artistic backgrounds or some drawing experience; others, like Helen Binnie, are complete beginners.

"Life drawing is challenging," she says.

"There is a terrible burden on you when you look at this beautiful girl and then try to translate what you see on to paper with just a pencil. You begin by feeling it is impossible to do it justice. It is easy to be discouraged, but the teaching here is so good that no one can feel disheartened for long."

"The great thing is that as you struggle there is always something you manage to do well - even if it's only a bit of the model's neck. Just one curve that has come out really well can make you feel uplifted. It is only when you really look at a human body that you realise how incredibly complicated it is. Trying to translate all those angles and shapes is a huge challenge."

Tutor Valerie Wiffen, a graduate from the Royal College of Art and the author of a Reader's Digest guide to figure sketching, is full of enthusiasm and keeps her class working fast. On the second day of the course the model assumes live poses, holding each one for two minutes and then returning to each pose five times. This encourages the students to concentrate hard, and they discover that in a short time they can achieve more than they thought.

"Life drawing is difficult and it is hard to keep a grip on dimensions and proportions," says Valerie. "But I want my pupils to learn tonal drawing so they will shade wherever they see shadows. It is easier for beginners to be literal and to draw what they see rather than to edit visually. The idea is to include as much information in the drawing as possible and the short poses help them to do this. When working quickly you learn to make choices, which is enormously valuable."

While the students are preparing to work on the 90-minute study of Zoe, Val encourages them to spend time choosing their position so that they have the angle that they want to draw. "If you're not sure about the pose, spend five minutes on several thumbnail sketches and then decide," she says.

Carol Craig, a housewife from Surrey, has tried sculpting but never life drawing before. "I wanted to have a better eye and this course has really inspired me. Val doesn't mind repeating points over and over again until they sink in, and gradually things have come together."

"At first all I wanted to do was lines. Then I learned how to look and I realised how difficult it is to put what you see on paper. Now I have started shading and using tones to get the effect I'm after."

John Carrick-Smith, a Londoner who works for a bank, thoroughly approves of Val's emphasis on tonal drawing, although in trendy circles it is derided as rather old-fashioned.

"Val is good because she doesn't impose her method on you; she pulls out what is already there and helps you develop. I think it is important that before people try the Damien Hirst technique they should understand the basics of drawing and painting."

"If you give a good grounding to students, technique is not a problem. Their own technique is the best. I try to give people individual pointers as to strengths and weaknesses. I won't allow them to throw away work in a fury when they think it has gone wrong. So long as you can rub out if you see something that is clearly wrong, move it and go for a battle-scarred winner. It is better to have dragged something into existence than to live with a drawing that you know in your heart is a flop."

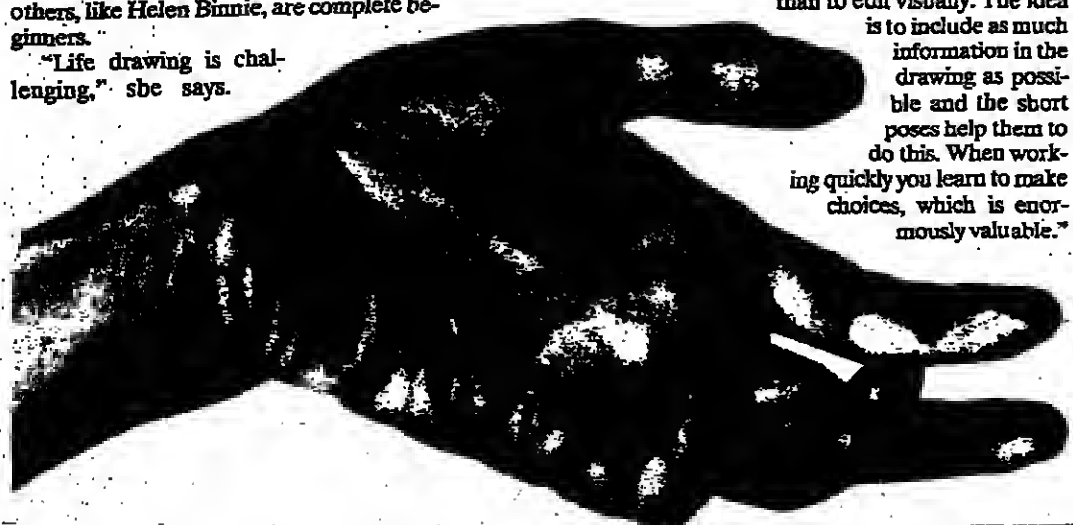
"I encourage them to experiment with huge variations in what they draw, with different scales and a change of eye level. I try to teach the students to be



brave, to stand back and look for a comprehensive image. The knack is to throw the whole thing together fast and then worry about detail."

"The negative shapes of where the model isn't must match the positive shapes of where the subject is. And I try to get them to think in terms of shade rather than lines. You don't really need a line unless you're drawing a barrier between different tones."

Val Wiffen's life drawing residential weekend course costs from £156 and is run by the Department of Continuing Education at West Dean College, West Dean, near Chichester in Sussex (01243-811301). Val also teaches at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494-890295). "Figure Sketching" by Valerie Wiffen is published by Reader's Digest, price £15.99



## Sleepers awake to become tables

The stuff of ... recycled railway tracks.  
Sally Staples visits African Trackwoods - a shop that offers the ultimate in green consumerism

This remarkable shop specialises in furniture carved from obsolete Zimbabwean railway sleepers, laid down more than a century ago. Every dining table, coffee table, linen chest and bedhead is unique - made in local workshops by African craftsmen from teak timbers that have

weathered and matured under the tropical sun.

The idea for the shop took root when the furniture maker Tony Peel set up his own cottage industry in Zimbabwe.

It proved so popular that he began exporting some of his work. Four years on he now has 80 people working for him, and his sister has set up a shop in the Buckinghamshire town of Marlow.

The furniture blends easily with many different styles, and the environmentally conscious can feel comfortable that they are buying a truly recycled product. None of the wood they use depletes the rainforest.

A round dining-table costs £1,550. Chairs are £185, rising to £215 for carvers. A coffee table (160cm x 86cm) costs £980, a double bed £1,170. And the shop offers more than furniture. Officers



New from old - coffee table made out of former train timbers

are used to make small pieces including clocks (£68), aromatherapy boxes (£58), bridge sets, CD racks (£56), even bread bins (£70). There are trays of all sizes, magazine racks and bookends. For £5 you can buy a wooden paperweight. Dotted round the shop and setting

off the furniture are a selection of artefacts and carvings from Zimbabwe - all made by local craftsmen.

The 5-ft-high wooden giraffes (£110) are unusual and decorative examples of African art. Displayed on the walls are Batonga axes used in ritual dances, and traditional hunting spears.

There is a chief's chair from Malawi, carved from two pieces of ebony that slot into one another to form a portable seat engraved with intricate designs that reflect tribal life.

This is a shop where browsers are welcomed. But be warned: it may change the way you want to style your house.

African Trackwoods is at Crown Lane, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 3EL (01628 481086). Open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9.30am-5pm

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streamlined for speed: Frankie Dettori and Cape Verdi may prove an irresistible force in today's Derby

Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

# Cape Verdi can strike a real blow for the modern female

THIS, the 219th Derby, is the ace that has been in the night-time bubbles of the Epsom management for several months now.

If you had to assemble a team for the Derby it would include the winter favourite for the premier Classic. It would also include the winner of the 1,000 Guineas and, if you were really being fanatical, you could throw in a top filly to give the colts a run for their money. Today though that ever becomes reality and the only surprise seems to be that Piggott is leaving it so late to announce his comeback in the Blue Riband.

This is the Derby you do not want to miss. It is anticipated that at about 3.50 this afternoon we will see the coming of a truly wonderful thoroughbred. Whichever animal negotiates the old switchback quickest must surely become, in an instant, one of the horses of the decade.

The cast list is so glittering that it would be surrounded by icons in different fields. Most attractive is the participation of Cape Verdi, the 1,000 Guineas winner, who attempts to become the seventh filly to succeed in the race and the first since Fifiella in 1916. Only five of her sex have ever bothered trying since 1919, but Cape

Richard Edmondson expects the 1,000 Guineas winner to become the first filly to beat the colts in the Derby since 1916

Verdi is out in this just as some novelty.

She represents the mighty Godolphin team who have been seasoned in Arabia. When the winter camp broke up to return to these shores the word was that Cape Verdi was the best in the entire squad. Not the best filly. Just the best.

In the first fillies' Classic she proved the assessment correct, sauntering five lengths clear of her rivals. Since that day she has conducted a scorched earth policy on the Newmarket gallops. Godolphin have not said she is going to win, but they expect her to. And the team is going well. They won two Group One events last weekend.

Cape Verdi's male counterpart is King Of Kings, and a further delicious strand to the Derby is that the 2,000 Guineas winner represents an axis of the Coolmore Stud, owner Michael Tabor and trainer Aidan O'Brien which has become

Godolphin's deadliest natural rival. It is the first time the respective Guineas winners have met in the Derby since 1917.

The Irish-based team will also have the winter favourite for the race, *Saragosa*, carrying the flag and it is from these three horses that our new champion is expected to emerge. "It could turn out to be a very good Derby this year because we've got the 1,000 Guineas and 2,000 Guineas winners in there," Michael Stoute, who trains another well-fancied creature in *Greek Dance*, says. "And we saw enough of *Second Empire* last year to show us he is a very good horse as well."

"I couldn't be that confident about my horse because if one of those three is as good as a mile and a half as they are at a mile then you're talking about a very formidable athlete indeed."

King Of Kings is a remarkable price considering his reputation is that of a colt who can give a head start to a bullet out of a gun on the home gallops (his Ballydoyle yard, incidentally, has provided the last seven Irish-trained winners of the Derby). The strong suggestion seems to be that King Of Kings will not stay today's trip and his camp have tacitly accepted this point by placing their main rider, Michael Kinane, on *Second Empire*.

It will be a difficult assignment for Kinane's mount because he has only recently recovered from pulled muscles in his quarters. Nevertheless, he came pleasingly through his final piece of work on the Curragh recently, a gallop he conducted while masquerading as the favourite for the Irish 2,000 Guineas.

A third Ballydoyle horse, *Saratoga Springs*, would be in single figures in the betting market had he not competed in the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) last weekend. The chestnut looked a little washed out at Chantilly, where his run hardly advertised the form of his previous victory in the Dante Stakes. That means his York victims City Hooors and Border Arrow are damned by association.

There is also a pale look about the Derby trials from Lingfield and Chester. *High-Rise* and *Sadian* appeared to be locked together in the practice of plodding at the former, while *Gulland*'s success at the Rood-eye raised doubts about his capacity to last this afternoon's distance on Epsom's undulating course.

More tempting is the high price attached to another trial victor, *Courteous*, whose pedigree and running style tell us he will be one of the few who actually enjoys the trip. His stable quite fancy him.

The best advice of all on this 219th Derby day, however, is to ignore the bald fellow with glasses on the Hill betting under the name of John Batten, the rogue bookie who ran off without paying out last year. With anyone else, back CAPE VERDI (nap 3.45).

## The experts' predictions

Richard Edmondson

1 Cape Verdi

2 Greek Dance

3 Second Empire

Best outsider: Courteous

Greg Wood

1 Greek Dance

2 The Glow-Worm

3 King Of Kings

Best outsider: Mutamam

Hyperion

1 Greek Dance

2 Cape Verdi

3 High-Rise

Best outsider: Mutamam

## 3.45 DERBY STAKES (Group 1) (CLASS A) £500,000 added 3YO 1m 4f Penalty value £598,690

1-133 BORDER ARROW (24) I Belding 9st.....R Cochrane 11

Owner: R B Micallef  
Chestnut colt by *Sadler's Wells* (who's progeny on average stay 1m 3.50) out of *Noble Point* (who is by *Sure Blade*)  
Form: Held up at the back, pulled hard, headway into third place 1 1/2 furlongs out, one pace and a half second in the Group Three Chester Vase at Chester (1m 2f, good). Previously held up at the back, pulled hard, headway into third place 1 1/2 furlongs out, one pace and a half second in the Group One 2,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft).  
Summary: Useful performer at a mile but far from certain on breeding to be as effective at a mile and a half and ran at York as if a mile and a quarter was as far as he wants to go.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 115 Time rating: 117

2-413-2 CITY HONOURS (24) Saeed bin Suwaid 9st.....J Reid 1

Owner: Godolphin  
Bay colt by *Darshan* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.50) out of *Barbara* (who is by *Sadler's Wells*)  
Form: Always prominent, led off out until 2f out, one pace and a half second in the Group Two Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f, good). Previously held up at the back, pulled hard, headway into third place 1 1/2 furlongs out, one pace and a half second in the Group One 2,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft).  
Summary: Ran a sound race in the Dante on his reappearance, but the winner let the form down when only fourth in the French Derby and, although he is bred to stay this distance, he must improve a lot to hold a chance.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 115 Time rating: 115

3-41-1 COURTEOUS (42) P Cole 9st.....T Quinn 13

Owner: Fahd Salman  
Bay colt by *Generous* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.40) out of *Dayanite* (who is by *Shirley Heights*)  
Form: Dropped back 3f out, renewed effort approaching final furlong, led one furlong out and stayed on well when beating *Go Friendly* by 1 1/2 lengths in the Group Three Classic Trial at Sandown (1m 2f, soft). Previously led 2f out, bang left inside final furlong but stayed on when beating *Majestic Hills* by three-quarters of a length in maiden at Salisbury (1m, good) last September.  
Summary: Bred to stay the Derby distance and is effective on soft ground but needs to improve substantially on what he has achieved so far if he is to play a major part.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 108 Time rating: 113

4-2-1 GREEK DANCE (25) M Stoute 9st.....W R Swinburn 3

Owner: Lord Walston  
Bay colt by *Sadler's Wells* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.20) out of *Helene* (who is by *Darshan*)  
Form: Held up at the back, headway over 4f out, led over 2f out and quickened clear impressively when beating *Capri* by six lengths in the Glasgow Stakes at York (1m 2f, good). Previously always well there, progress to lead one and a half furlongs out, ran on well when beating *Hewadeth* by two lengths in maiden at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft).  
Summary: Impressive on both starts this year, notched a fair time at York, handles out in the ground and is bred to stay well but needs a much tougher assignment here and may find one or two too good for him.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 112 Time rating: 110

5-421-21 GULLAND (32) G Wragg 9st.....M Hills 9

Owner: Mollers Racing  
Bay colt by *Unwieldy* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.20) out of *Spin* (who is by *High Top*)  
Form: Always well there, led 3f out, forged clear entering final furlong, led and just held on when beating *The Glow-Worm* by a short-head in the Group Three Chester Vase at Chester (1m 4f, good). Previously led, quickened 2f out, headed inside final furlong, kept on when a neck second to *Xaar* in the Group Three Crown Stakes at Newmarket (1m, soft).  
Summary: Smart colt, who evidently stays a mile and a half, but failed to impress at Chester and might not be suited by Epsom's switch-back track.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 112 Time rating: 110

6-1131-5 HAAMI (35) J Dunlop 9st.....R Hills 6

Owner: Hamdan Al Maktoum  
Bay colt by *Nashwan* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 1.70) out of *Oumaldaya* (who is by *Nureyev*)  
Form: Tracked leaders, headway and every chance 2f out, unable to quicken approaching final furlong when three lengths fifth to King Of Kings in the Group One 2,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). Previously tracked leader, made headway to lead approaching final furlong, ran on when beating *Shining* by 1 1/2 lengths in the Listed *Saratoga Springs* Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to firm).  
Summary: Ran a decent race in the 2,000 Guineas and is bred to stay the Derby distance. His similar credentials to the 1997 Derby winner *Generous* in that respect, but is unlikely to prove that good.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 114 Time rating: 117

7-1-11 HIGH-RISE (28) L Cuxart 9st.....O Pester 14

Owner: Hamdan Al Maktoum  
Bay colt by *High Estate* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 2.50) out of *High Top* (who is by *High Line*)  
Form: Held up, tracked leaders over 3f out until 3f out, led 11 out, ran on well when beating *Sadian* by a neck in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f, good). Previously held up, headway on rails 2f out, quickened to lead 1f out, went clear and eased near finish when beating *Generous* Liba by 3 1/2 lengths in the Listed *United States* Stakes at Pontefract (1m 2f, good to soft).  
Summary: Says the Derby distance and has similar credentials to 1988 winner *Knapall*. However, this looks a better race and, while he could leap on to reach the frame, it is hard to see him winning.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 104 Time rating: 101

8-1121-1 KING OF KINGS (35) A P O'Brien (H) 9st.....Pat Eddery 12

Owner: Mrs J Magner  
Bay colt by *Sadler's Wells* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.20) out of *Zimmerwald* (who is by *Habib*)  
Form: Held up, steadily headway 2f out, 3f out, led 11 out, ran on well when beating *Land A Hand* by 1 1/2 lengths in the Group One 2,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to soft). Previously always prominent, headway to lead 1f out, kept on well when beating *Celtic Cavalier* by three-quarters of a length in the Group One National Stakes at the Curragh (1m, soft) last September.  
Summary: Showed great speed and class to win the Guineas but, out of a *Habib* mare, lacks stamina on the derby side of his pedigree and is no certainty to stay the Derby distance.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 120 Time rating: 120

9-113-2 MUTAMAM (18) A Stewart 9st.....M Roberts 15

Owner: Hamdan Al Maktoum  
Bay colt by *Darshan* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 3.50) out of *Petal Girl* (who is by *Carlson*)  
Form: Held up, stayed on under pressure 1f out, ran on first furlong when half a length second to *Rabiah* in the Listed *Prodominate* Stakes at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm). Previously held up, headway when hampered and switched left 1f out, ran on well when beating *Cherry* by three-quarters of a length in the Group One Royal Ascot Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good) last October.  
Summary: Sure to stay the Derby distance on breeding but his form is way short of what is required and it will be a major surprise if he can do the business here.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 107 Time rating: 113

10-1-12 SADIAN (28) H Cecil 9st.....K Fallon 7

Owner: Prince A Fahel  
Bay colt by *Shirley Heights* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 4.10) out of *Rahma* (who is by *Kids*)  
Form: Held up, ridden over 3f out, led over 2f out, soon headed, hard ridden and every chance inside final furlong and ran on well final furlong when a neck second to *High-Rise* in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f, good). Previously made all, ridden a furlong out and ran on well when beating *Heddy* by 3 1/2 lengths in the *Yatterburn Corner* Stakes at Bath (1m 2f, soft).  
Summary: Another who promises to stay well but does not seem to have enough class to hold a serious chance. Might reach a place at big odds.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 104 Time rating: 100

11-131-14 SARATOGA SPRINGS (6) A P O'Brien (H) 9st.....W Ryan 4 V

Owner: M Tabor  
Chestnut colt by *Gen Senor* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 0.80) out of *Populonia* (who is by *Genial Asmell*)  
Form: Held up, headway over 2f out, hard ridden 1f out, one pace when five lengths fourth to *Dean Webb* in the Group One Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) at Chantilly (1m 4f, good). Previously held up and behind, effort over 3f out, ridden to lead final furlong, ran on well when beating *City Honours* by half a length in the Group Two Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f, good).  
Summary: Appeared to have his limitations exposed when only fourth in the French Derby and might eventually prove best over 1m 2f the distance of his Derby success.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 117 Time rating: 115

12-111-3 SECOND EMPIRE (14) A P O'Brien (H) 9st.....M J Kinane 10

Owner: M Tabor  
Bay colt by *Fairy King* (whose progeny on average stay 1.50) out of *Wahab Love* (who is by *Els-Muham*)  
Form: Held up at the back, pulled hard, headway into third place 1 1/2 furlongs out, one pace and a half second in the Group One Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh (1m, good to firm). Previously always prominent, led over a furlong out, ridden out when beating *Charge D'Alcazar* by 1 1/2 lengths in the Group One Grand Critérium at Longchamp (1m, heavy).  
Summary: Might have won test time with a more powerful ride but his sympathetic handling raises worries about his soundness and is no certainty to stay the Derby distance. Brilliant trainer though.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 116 Time rating: 119

13-22-222 SUNSHINE STREET (27) N Meade (H) 9st.....J Murtagh 2

Owner: P Garvey  
Bay colt by *Sunshine Forever* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 4.70) out of *Meadow Spirit* (who is by *Chief's Crown*)  
Form: Led early, headed but stayed prominent after 2f, kept on well from 2f out when 1 1/2 lengths second to *Risk Master* in the Group Three *Derrinstown Stud* Derby Trial at Leopardstown (1m 2f, good). Previously led and headed 4f out, stayed on to lead again inside final furlong, caught on the line when a short-head second to *Beldarian* in a maiden at Leopardstown (1m, soft).  
Summary: Has yet to win even a maiden from five starts so far, and although bred to stay the Derby distance seems certain to take considerably longer to do so than the winner.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 95 Time rating: 106

14-3631-12 THE GLOW-WORM (32) B Hills 9st.....D Holland 8

Owner: Mrs J M Corbett  
Bay colt by *Dayanite* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 2.40) out of *Shalanda* (who is by *Shernazar*)  
Form: Held up and behind, headway under pressure 2f out, hard ridden final furlong and ran on well when a short-head second to *Gulland* in the Group Three Chester Vase at Chester (1m 4f, good). Previously held up headway 2f out, led inside final furlong and ran on well when beating *Achilles* by 1 1/2 lengths in the Blue Riband Trial Stakes at Epsom (1m 4f, soft).  
Summary: Stays well and is a tough performer who looks sure to run a decent race. Appears to lack that vital bit of class, however, and it is hard to see him holding more than each-way prospects.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 110 Time rating: 101

15-1214-1 CAPE VERDI (34) Saeed bin Suwaid 9st.....L Dettori 5

Owner: Godolphin  
Bay filly by *Carlson* (whose progeny on average stay 1m 2.80) out of *Africain Bleu* (who is by *Sigbee*)  
Form: Held up, smooth headway to lead over a furlong out, quickened clear and ran on well when beating *Shalanda* by five lengths in the Group One 1,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to soft). Previously held up, effort 3f out, stayed on final furlong when five lengths fourth to *Embassy* in the Group One *Cherbury* Park Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good).  
Summary: Won the 1,000 Guineas in brilliant style and a fast time and is bred to be just as good if not better at the Derby distance. No filly has won the Derby since 1916 but this one must have a great chance.  
Going: Distance: Form rating: 128 Time rating: 125

- 15 declared -

BETTING: 100-30 Greek Dance, 7-2 Cape Verdi, 4-1 Second Empire, 10-1 City Honours, Gulland, Sadian, Saratoga Springs, 50-1 Mutamam, 250-1 Sunshine Street  
1997: Berry The Dip 3 9 0 W Ryan 11-1 (J Gosden) drawn (8) 13 ran

Compiled by Ian Davies

The energy from a bolt of lightning is enough to power Paris for one year. Even more amazing, the energy unleashed by the R390 at Le Mans 24 hrs is enough to take cover, the Nissan R390 is about to strike power a Formula One car for an entire 17-race Grand Prix season. Little wonder that Nissan cars just about going on and on and on... 24hrs a day.

NISSAN  
Le Mans '98

Greek Da  
Test driver divi  
Power of Kinane

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# Greek Dance gives Stoute good reason to sing

The man who trained Shergar and Shahrastani to win the premier Classic has a third Derby victory in range. Richard Edmondson reports

IF Greek Dance wins the Derby this afternoon it will almost certainly mean curtains for the Queen's Stand at Epsom. Michael Stoute will laugh and the masonry will start falling.

Mr Stoute doesn't giggle or titter. When he is amused he explodes and the whole vicinity appears to rock. The tremors come regularly because the trainer is both hugely successful and constantly amazed by his own good fortune. "I know for a fact that I've been very fortunate," he says. "I've always got a bit of an opening when I need one, the sort of opportunities not a lot of people get."

You may care to believe that through good luck you can win the Derby, the Dubai World Cup, the Japan Cup and the Breeders' Cup, and the other great sheaf of Group One races Stoute has collected in over 25 years with a licence. But then you'd have to be as crackers as the trainer sometimes appears to be on the Newmarket gallops.

You can tell Stoute's coming in the mornings because he either whistles or sings all the time. Sometimes he does the laugh. One day a huge butterfly net will come plonking down on him.

Stoute received me at Freemason Lodge this week and let me into the sitting room, a collision of flowery sofas and equine memorabilia, a sort of Newmarket Horseracing Museum meets Laura Ashley. Here are the trappings of a winner. There is a montage of Shergar's five Group Ones, pictures of his previous Derby winners Shergar and Shahrastani, and, inextricably, a never ash tray containing a cigarette. Stoute does not use this ash tray though he does smoke his 555 Cut. He chews gum at the same time. And he talks. This last bit will come as something of a surprise to those who know the trainer only through the racecourse.

After he has won a contest Michael Stoute is the most elusive trainer in British racing. He comes puffing into the winners' enclosure and then seems as though he will do just about anything rather than talk to the press. When he is cornered, this Scarlet Monosyllable always pretends he has seen someone in the distance and scurries round the pack.



Calling the tune: Michael Stoute is heard before he is seen as he whistles his way around Newmarket's gallops during the morning routine of exercising his stable's expensive inmates

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Stoute at home is a different matter. You get the benefit of his Caribbean hasso profundo (his family stretches back to the 1600s in Barbados), the sort of voice that communicates with micro-organisms at the bottom of the sea. This week it has been talking a lot about the Derby.

"We've been fortunate enough to have a lot of international success here and there have been great days and great thrills," Stoute says. "It's just degrees of great thrills."

Dubai (and Singpiel's World Cup) was particularly satisfying because we took a high-class grass horse and beat the American horses on a surface he was unfamiliar with.

"But it's the Derby which is the seriously important race of them all. All round it creates more natural buzz because it's a race with great history and it's run in England."

"Having a horse like Greek Dance causes a lift for the whole yard. It's interesting and it's exciting to have him around. Everyone's delighted and fascinated with the horse."

"I think we go to Epsom with a sound chance of being in the frame. He's got the pedigree, which helps, and we'd be

very surprised if he didn't get the trip. We're happy with him and he's progressing nicely. He's not a spectacular horse at home but that can be a characteristic of some of Sadler's

Stoute's principal confederate this afternoon will be Walter Swinburn. The Choirboy is more the senior chorister these days and also a more rounded person in and out of

when we had a spectacular year with Shergar, Marwell, Hard Fought and Dalsan.

"But he's always had a weight problem and discipline has been lacking at times. I just felt he wasn't achieving his potential so we've had some ups and downs on the way through."

"But I can only give him full credit for what he's done, walking away from racing and then coming back probably fitter and better prepared, mentally and physically, than he's ever been before."

Michael Stoute looks out of the window and across what must be one of the least frilly yards in Newmarket. The central green looks suspiciously

like a council football pitch, and there are large flower tubs, unconvincing decoration, at each corner.

Stoute probably believes that owners appreciate horses more than horticulture and he prefers to impress the former with results. He manages that as well as anyone, which is why rich folk are happy to entrust expensive thoroughbreds to a man who seeks to make them even more valuable breeding machines. "I am very well aware of the commercial aspects of the sport which mean more to some of my owners than others," Stoute says. "That's my job. But it would be ungrateful to call it pressure."

"I always like what Jack Berry says, that it's much tougher at the bottom. We're

lucky to have that calibre of horse."

Stoute is only 52 and will be providing board and lodging for the very best thoroughbreds for many seasons to come. "We look at every year as a different year and we realise we have to achieve," he says. "It's got to happen."

"There are a lot of owners to keep happy and a lot of lads competitive with each other because it might be their turn that particular year. We're happy but we're not satisfied. We want to keep doing it and the fear of failure is always there."

His fellow trainers will be glad to hear that Michael Ronald Stoute feels fear. He is usually the one causing it. Greek Dance may literally bring the house down this afternoon.

**'Greek Dance has got the pedigree and we'd be surprised if he didn't get the trip. He looks pretty safe and we'd be disappointed if we didn't run very well'**

Wells' stock. He does good class work but he's not as good in the mornings as he is in the afternoon.

"He looks pretty safe and we'd be disappointed if we didn't run very well."

the saddle according to his main employer. The two have had their spats. "I think Wally has a God-given talent and it was all pretty easy for him early on," Stoute says. "He started here as stable jockey in 1981

than he's ever been before."

Michael Stoute looks out of the window and across what

must be one of the least frilly yards in Newmarket. The central green looks suspiciously

## Test driver divided between two speed machines

IF Cape Verdi wins the Derby, Frankie Dettori will be the man who gets the plaudits on the day, and very likely rightly so. But behind the star names in the saddle are a legion of riders whose importance to the sport is often understated but cannot be overemphasised.

The contribution made by the men and women who ride exercise and work on the home gallops is crucial. A good pair of hands sends messages of mental and physical balance down the reins and the horse-power contained in them runs sweetly; a bad pair, and you have a Ferrari with the choke out and no brakes or suspension.

The motor racing analogies are valid enough. Michael Schumacher and Dettori both do their share of behind-the-scenes testing, but both rely on the work put in earlier by a dedicated, hand-picked backroom team, whether wearing the livery of Maranello or, in today's case, Godolphin.

For the past 10 months Shaun Murphy has been responsible for the day-to-day well-being and education of not only Cape Verdi, but also the boy in blue, City Honours. And according to the man who knows them best, both are worthy of respect this afternoon. That the filly was already a

Sue Montgomery on the rider with the inside line on Cape Verdi and City Honours

delight to ride when he took her over was testament to the skills of Derek Crutchley, his oppo at her first competitive home, Peter Chapple-Hyam's Manton, and like him an ex-jockey. "The first time I sat on Cape Verdi I knew immediately she had class," Murphy said, "but it was a couple of months into her work in Dubai before we knew just how much."

"When we took her off the sand and on to the grass track at Nad El Sheba she just ran away from everything and we

knew we had something a bit special. She's got speed, she can quicken, and can keep galloping. I am sure she'll stay. It all comes so easy for her."

"The Derby can be a rough race, and although Cape Verdi is not small, she's lighter than some of those big colts, and wouldn't want to be bumped around. But she's got the pace to lay up near the front and stay out of trouble."

"You have to work much harder on City Honours, keep at him all the time. She'd be the

classier ride, but he's a real tough individual, and should be able to hold his own in any buffeting. He'll be coming from off the pace, doing all his best work at the end."

After he relinquished his licence to ride in public, Murphy, 32, from Kinsale, Co Cork, had a spell with John Gosden in Newmarket but was head-hunted three years ago by Godolphin from the States, where he was riding work on the tracks and breaking yearlings at the big Kentucky stud farms.

In a life with racehorses that began at the age of 16 he has been there, done most – as an apprentice at Con Collins's he

looked after the Irish Oaks winner Princess Pati, and with the Mullins family rode Dawn Run a few times and spent two days unconscious after a fall from a tesser beast ("The horse went into a wall but all I remember is passing the dung-heap and wondering whether to dive into it") – but has found his niche with Sheikh Mohammed's elite.

"All right, it's Frankie gets the glory," Murphy said. "But this job gives real satisfaction. You're riding really good horses and it's up to you how they turn out. And your work is appreciated, from the top. The Sheikh is a horseman himself, and he knows the score."

## Power of Kinane can enable Empire to strike back

Border Arrow: Relished Newmarket's uphill finish in his first 10 starts and again ran well when third to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas. Seemed jaded by those exertions when third to Saratoga Springs in the Dante Stakes. Big horse who may not handle the track. City Honours: Wintered in Dubai and looked a million dollars before spitting Saratoga Springs and Border Arrow in the Dante at York. Finished third in the Royal Lodge Stakes for Peter Chapple-Hyam last season and should be well suited by today's trip. Courteous: A son of the 1991 Derby winner, Generous, he easily won the Classic Trial at Sandown on soft ground, with the subsequent French Guineas runner-up Muhtathir a

well-beaten third. Wet weather has improved his chance. Greek Dance: Beautifully-bred colt by Sadler's Wells out of St Leger runner-up Hellenic. Improving with every race. Easily won a maiden at Newmarket and then trounced Capri by six lengths in the Glasgow Stakes at York. Working well and strongly fancied, though yet to beat Group-class opponents. Gulland: Ran a cracker when a neck second to Xaar in the Craven Stakes but largely dismissed as a likely Derby winner since his unimpressive short-head defeat of The Glow-Worm in the Chester Vase. Tied up in the closing stages there but had been left in front some way out and could still run a big race if ridden with more restraint.

Simon Holt (right) of the Channel 4 Racing team analyses the Derby runners and expects the beaten favourite for the Irish 2,000 Guineas to regain his status

Haami: This son of the 1989 Derby winner, Nashwan, ran a good fifth behind King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas. Has pleased connections since, though is not guaranteed to stay and needs fast ground. High-Rise: Unbeaten colt who earned his place here when holding Sadian's challenge by a neck in the Lingfield Derby Trial. Should go on improving and has a useful turn of foot. King Of Kings: Beat Lend A Hand and Border Arrow in the 2,000 Guineas, but surprisingly announced a Derby runner soon afterwards despite seeming unlikely, both on racing style and breeding, to stay a mile and a half. Has been discarded by Michael Kinane in favour of Second Empire. Mutamam: Unlucky third to Saratoga Springs in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster last autumn. Blew hard after a disappointing second to Rabah in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood on reappearance. Should strip fitter here but has had a rushed preparation. Sadian: At big odds for a horse handled by three-time Derby-winning trainer Henry Cecil. Battled on well when a

neck second to High-Rise in the Lingfield Derby Trial. Something to find on the book but a nice colt with a willing attitude and no stamina doubts. Saratoga Springs: Tough, if somewhat lazy, individual who found plenty of reserves to win the Dante Stakes but had his limitations exposed when fourth to Dream Well in the French Derby last weekend. Second Empire: Looked a cracking prospect when winning Grand Criterium at Longchamp last year. Controversially ridden by Christy Roche when third to Desert Prince in Irish 2,000 Guineas. Now the mount of Michael Kinane and his improvement expected. Sunshine Street: Runner-up on all five starts so far. A recent second to Risk Material in a

Group Three at Leopardstown hardly looks good enough. The Glow-Worm: A progressive colt this season, finishing strongly when just failing to catch Gulland in the Chester Vase last time having previously landed the Blue Riband Trial over this course and distance. Cape Verdi: Put up outstanding performance when trotting up by five lengths from Shahrastani in the 1,000 Guineas and is reported in wonderful shape for this enterprising attempt.

Conclusion: SECOND EMPIRE can confirm the outstanding impression he made as a two-year-old. Gulland should not be dismissed despite his unimpressive Chester win, while Courteous and Sadian may prove the best outsiders.

## Girl Power.

The first Derby-winning filly since 1916.

(Frankie to triumph with Cape Verdi)

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7/2 Greek Dance	20/1 Haami
7/2 Second Empire	20/1 High Rise
4/1 Cape Verdi	22/1 The Glow Worm
8/1 City Honours	25/1 Border Arrow
9/1 Gulland	25/1 Sadian
10/1 King Of Kings	50/1 Mutamam
15/1 Courteous	300/1 Sunshine Street
18/1 Saratoga Springs	

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# Shahtoush whoosh leaves Dettori standing

By Richard Edmondson  
at Epsom

THE record book will show, primarily, that Shahtoush won the Oaks here yesterday. In fact, it was Michael Kinane.

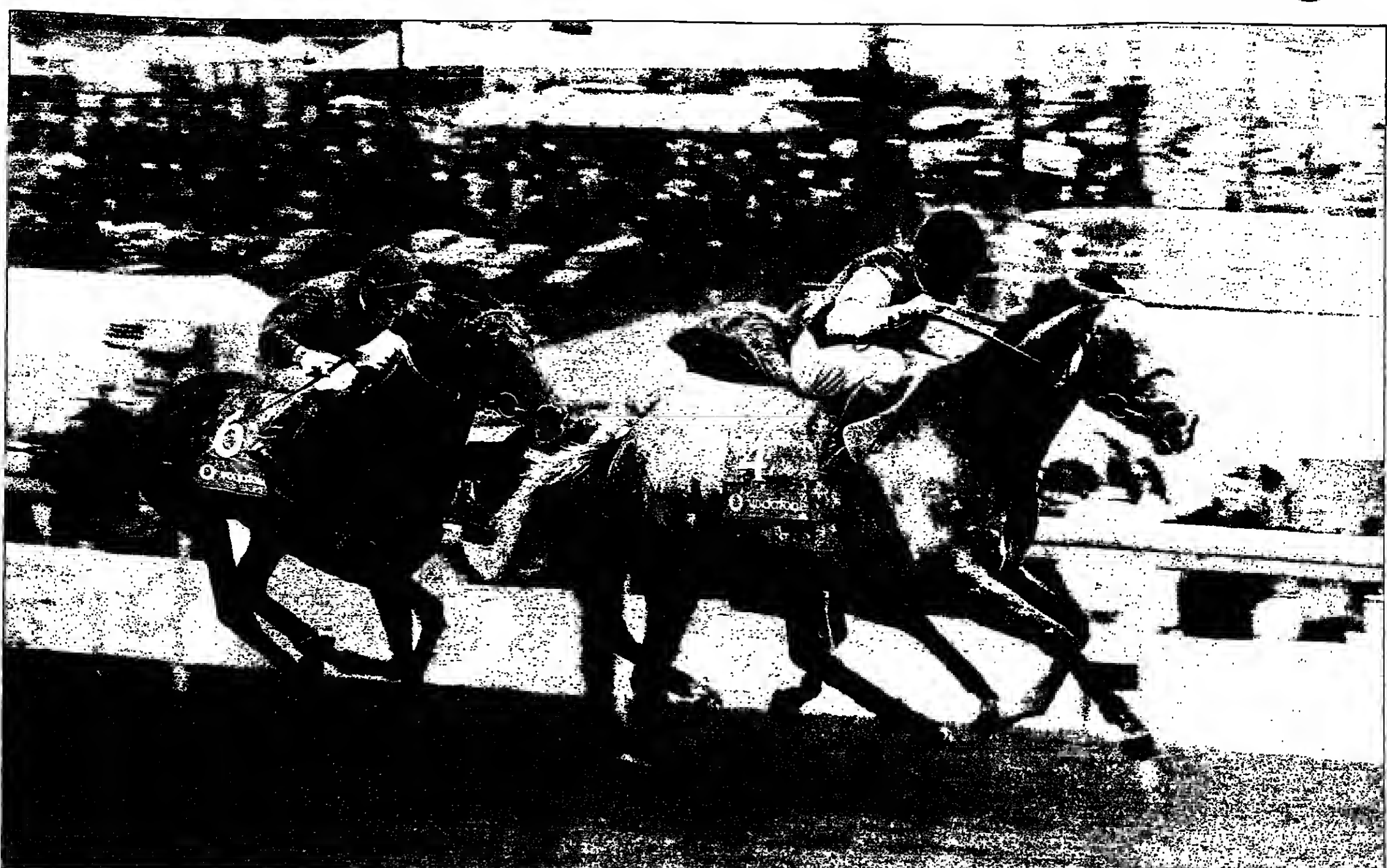
If the Irish filly and her three-quarter length victim, Bahr, ever meet again it would be a bold punter indeed who predicted a similar outcome. The difference between the two yesterday was not their respective abilities. Rather it was the level of assistance they received from their confederates in the saddle.

Frankie Dettori must have thought the Classic was his as he eased Bahr towards the leaders a furlong and a half from home. Certainly, his main market rival, Midnight Line, was beginning to show the fatigue of the beaten. However, the Italian was swiftly jumped by the three-quarters of a length Kinane had stolen in his mind.

"I think I snuck up on Frankie a little bit and gave him a surprise," Kinane said. "I saw he had the ones in front covered and he was going sweet, so I suddenly shot by him. He may not have expected me to be going so well behind and when I quickened I really let her go."

It had been a tactical masterclass from Kinane throughout. He refused to get involved with a pacemaker, Trophy Wife, who probably broke the course record for the first five furlongs; he refused even to get involved in the shuffling behind the leader. "The plan was to ride her patiently and she dropped her head immediately coming out of the gate so I left it there," the Irishman said. "I could see Midnight Line and some of the others getting into a fight and I was happy not to be involved. It suited me for her to be at the back to start." Her position at the end did not please him either.

This was yet another major training triumph for Aidan O'Brien, who doesn't give quotes. He just takes Classics. This was his second British going of the season following King Of Kings' 2,000 Guineas.



Steering clear: Pat Eddery guides the grey Silver Patriarch through from the rear of the field to beat Swain (blue silks) and Ebadiya in yesterday's Coronation Cup at Epsom

Photograph: Robert Hallam

In between he has also collected the Dante Stakes with Saratoga Springs, a hat-trick which makes him the leading trainer in Britain this year. Shahtoush will now go for the Irish Oaks, which is also the target for Bahr. Dettori has five weeks to plot his revenge.

As a pointer to the Derby, the Oaks had fingers pointing everywhere. The Ballydoyle camp can hardly be downcast, but there was as much success for Godolphin. Bahr's owners today saddle up Cape Verdi,

who is considered much the superior. In addition, the 1,000 Guineas winner had Shahtoush five lengths back at Newmarket so the form looks solid.

The signal to another fancied Blue Riband horse, Greek Dance, was hardly dazzling after the Coronation Cup, however. His Newmarket galloping partner Nicole Pharty not only finished last in the Group One contest but also became 20 lengths detached from the penultimate horse.

It had not looked as though

the filly would bring up the rear for much of the contest. That slot appeared safely booked for Silver Patriarch. And he won.

The grey exhibited in the Derby last season that he is not an animal who scoots around these tight corners of Surrey pleasingly. From the outset yesterday Pat Eddery was jumping around on his saddle so energetically that it was easy to see someone had slipped a thistle into his breeches.

Once Silver Patriarch hit the straight, however, he built up the

sort of momentum that knocks down walls. "I knew I would be struggling because he's a lazy type of horse and this isn't the best track in the world for him," Eddery reported. "When I got within four lengths of them before the dip, I thought I'd pick them up because we know from last year that he does fly up the hill. He really picked up and went by good horses quick. On a fair track he'd have beaten them three lengths."

The double doors now open for Silver Patriarch's options. As a St Leger winner it could have been the slog up to Cup distances for him. Now he can realistically be primed for the glamour events over 12 furlongs. "It is really down to a question of optimism and Pat's opinion that we brought him back to a mile and a half," John Dunlop, the winning trainer, said. "We never even entered him for the Ascot Gold Cup and I think we will have to go to Ascot now for the King George." We will get an idea this afternoon whom he might be facing.

## Magnier and Tabor try Triple whammy

SUE MAGNIER and Michael Tabor could spoil the party on both sides of the Atlantic today. Not only are their King Of Kings, Second Empire and Saratoga Springs the main obstacles to an emotional win for Walter Swinburn on Greek Dance or a historic one for the filly Cape Verdi in the Derby, but the owners could also throw a spanner in the works in New York where Real Quiet attempts to become the first horse in 20 years to complete the US Triple Crown by lifting the Belmont Stakes.

The Tabor/Magnier colours will be carried by the Illinois Derby winner Yarrow Brae, who could give D Wayne Lukas a fourth win in the race in five years after Tabasco Cat (1994), Thunder Gulch (1995) and Editor's Note (1996).

"Real Quiet is the one to beat but he's no cinch because that is an elusive crown," Lukas said. "This is a big step up for us but Yarrow Brae has got the pedigree and the combination of great tactical speed and the

ability to stay. The Belmont catches this type of horse that is improving - he fits the mold and maybe we can catch a break."

Real Quiet is described as "98 per cent certain" to win by his jockey, Kent Desormeaux. Bob Baffert, his trainer, came within a whisker of winning the Triple Crown last year with Silver Charm, who won the

Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes and finished second in the Belmont.

The weekend's other Classic, tomorrow's Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly, will be an all-French affair with the Aga Khan's Zainta the short-priced favourite. John Dunlop's Taipan and Paul Cole's Yorkshire are among time acceptors for the Grand Prix de Chantilly on the same card.

### Afternoon results

EPSON	SOUTHWELL
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# A boy among sharks, but Owen keeps his head above water



MIKE ROWBOTTOM  
ON THE PERILS OF PR FACING EMERGING CELEBRITIES

THERE is a point when any PR exercise distorts under the pressure of reality. The process occurred midway through yesterday's Umbro launch for the contract they have just signed with Michael Owen.

The young England forward, who had fended off the inevitable question about Teddy Sheringham's night-clubbing activities by saying he hadn't heard what had gone on, was suddenly given the evidence.

With a grin that was two parts twinkle to one part shark, a willer member of the Fourth Estate slapped down a copy of the *Sun* on to the table where the 18-year-old footballer was sitting.

The front page picture, it had to be said, was a tabloid

wet dream. There it all was - the boozing setting, the flag in the hand, the leggy blonde. It was the sort of picture you might see in a rival fanzine with Sheringham's face crudely pasted on top.

But in this case, unfortunately, the face really was that of the 32-year-old England forward to whom Owen - in playing terms that is - is the most obvious understudy.

Owen took in the details impassively before nudging the paper back towards his thoughtful provider with a hard stare. "Where's that?" he asked, with a ghost of a smile.

In terms of the paper-scissors-stone guessing game, where you have to choose simultaneously with your

opponent and hope to overcome them, this was stone meets stone.

No wonder the company spokesman was acting like a dog with two tails. What more could a sponsor ask than this tanned, self-contained, super talented teenager standing on the cusp of his own greatness, a more certain bet for the future than the Millennium Dome dominating the skyline outside the press conference venue?

What Owen had to face yesterday is the new reality for emerging superstars - an endless succession of courses in which the feast is themselves. From the moment his helicopter landed, all eyes and lenses were trained on the

compact figure in the red top folding his newspaper - hanging a sec, newspaper? - in preparation for a short, conducted walk to the site of his interrogation.

As he made his way over, passing the time of day with the blazered folk who surrounded him, he clasped his hands behind his back. Like Prince bloody Phillip, for goodness sake - and he's still little more than a kid.

He was then ushered into a series of scenarios which will become all too familiar to him, if they are not already. First came the appearance in front of all assembled media - 50 reporters, 20 photographers, five TV cameramen, while sitting up on a dais with the sponsor.

Then he was escorted away for a smaller gathering with the daily written press, before being sidetracked for a chat with the Sunday press, before being guided upstairs to have his picture taken on the roof - with a clear view over to the Dome.

Requests for autographs - from the staff clearing the tables, and even from some reporters - filled in any spare moments. Finally, after a last round of farewells, he lifted off again in the helicopter to rejoin the England party - grateful, no doubt, that the landing was to be out of sight of any joshing colleagues.

In the course of the interviews (written media, dailies only) one idiot asked him if he had watched the likes of Steve

Heighway playing for Liverpool when he had visited Anfield as a boy. All right. It was me. A moment's thought confirmed that when Heighway was in his pomp in the early 70s England's newest forward was not even in his pram. He is so fearfully young, so awesomely composed.

The introductory address of Owen's companion on the dais had a particular resonance given the disruptive recent events surrounding certain members of the England party. "What a pleasure it is," he said, "to be involved with someone who has come to fruition and shown a maturity beyond his years... what a pleasure to reward dedication, commitment and loyalty."

The images of recent weeks - Sheringham's witless car-cuddling, Paul Gascoigne's tragicomic multi-cigarretted appearances - form an unspoken counterpoint to everything Owen does. Like Edina's daughter, Saffy, in *Absolutely Fabulous*, it seems he must take on the responsibilities so flagrantly shunned by the older generation.

It is, in truth, a fearful load, but for all that Owen protests he would not change his position with any other 18-year-old in the world. For today's international sporting arrivals, heavy rewards are tempered with heavy burdens. Let's hope, for Owen's sake, that he can keep those fleet feet firmly located on terra firma.

## Fight is off as Akinwande fails hepatitis test

### Boxing

By Tim Dahlberg and Glyn Leach in New York

THE world heavyweight title fight between Evander Holyfield and Henry Akinwande, due to be staged here tonight, was called off yesterday after Akinwande was reported to have tested positive for hepatitis B.

Greg Fritz, a spokesman for Don King Productions, the promoter of the fight, said the finding had come in two separate medical tests conducted by the New York State Athletic Commission. "The fight is off," Fritz said.

The commission does not allow infected boxers to fight because of the risk of transmitting the disease through blood during bouts. Hepatitis B and C cause serious liver problems.

Hepatitis A is typically a food-borne disease that can pass quickly. Hepatitis B, often contracted through sex or dirty hypodermic needles, can be successfully treated, but not always.

The Showtime network, which was to televise the bout from Madison Square Garden, also said in a statement that the fight had been cancelled due to the commission's finding that British-born Akinwande had tested positive for hepatitis B.

Attempts were made to rescue the card as new tests were conducted following suggestions that an error may have been made because another heavyweight fighter on the card had also failed a medical.

Ray Mercer, who was due to fight on the undercard against Jerry Ballard, was also suspended for medical reasons, according to Ralph Petrillo, medical co-ordinator for the athletic commission. Petrillo said Akinwande was under a medical suspension, but he declined to elaborate.

Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, said: "A test has come back and Henry Akinwande has tested positive, at least on this particular test for hepatitis."

The tests on Akinwande and Mercer were carried out at the same laboratory. Speaking before the final decision to call off the fight, Thomas said: "They were carried out at the same lab and we suspect there may be something wrong. It is a strange coincidence."

Holyfield said: "It's disappointing to train for 13 weeks, prepare for a fight, then the day before a fight this happens. Two weeks, three weeks is different, but the day before is really hard to take. It's kind of strange to wait till the last minute to test for things like that. I'm the most tested fighter in the world. They get me early. It's part of life. Those things happen."

It had been hoped that the calling off of the Holyfield-Akinwande fight might not necessarily lead to the scrapping of the rest of the undercard, including Roberto Duran's world title fight. However, it was confirmed later that the entire card would be called off.

These were the second and third medical suspensions to hit tonight's card. On Friday the Mexican lightweight Maria de las Nieves Garcia was scratched from her undercard bout with Christy Martin because tests showed she was pregnant.

Akinwande has had a dramatic last 12 months. He was disqualified during a bout last year against the World Boxing Council champion, Lennox Lewis, for repeated holding. After the Lewis debacle, King matched him against Orlin Norris and Akinwande won a 12-round decision to become the mandatory contender.

Holyfield was to have fought Lewis to unify the heavyweight championship for the first time since Riddick Bowe threw the WBC belt into a rubbish bin after beating Holyfield.

But with Holyfield wanting \$20m (£12m) for the fight and Lewis unwilling to give up his relationship with the HBO network, talks collapsed and Holyfield was left only with the option of taking a mandatory title defence to keep his World Boxing Association title.



Roberto Duran (right) battles it out with David Radford during an international middleweight championship fight

Photograph: Reuters

## Horseplay days are over for Duran

ON his first trip to New York, in 1971, a 20-year-old Roberto Duran sat on the steps of Madison Square Garden at 7am and a rare smile played across the cruellest lips in boxing. Duran believed that all fights in the USA were staged at the legendary Manhattan arena and that, while nobody knew him then, "they soon would". That evening he made an impression on one Benny Huertas, whom Duran knocked cold in the first round of his Garden debut.

Tonight, an incredible 26 years to the month after Duran brutalised Edinburgh's Ken Buchanan at the "mecca of boxing" to become lightweight champion of the world, the Garden was due to be a fitting setting for what surely must be the 23rd and final world title fight of Duran's 31-year boxing career.

Two weeks before his 48th birthday, the legendary "manos de Piedra" (Hands of Stone) was to have challenged William Joppy for the World Boxing Association middleweight title on the undercard to the Evander Holyfield-Henry Akinwande heavyweight title fight. Duran was given little chance of beating Joppy, 27, whose parents had not even met when Duran, then a 15-year-old bantamweight, turned professional in March 1967.

Duran has won an incredible 102 fights, with 13 losses, mostly in the latter part of his career. He earned his fame as a snarling, dead-eyed destroyer whose rage and aggression nullified the cultured skills of Buchanan and Sugar Ray Leonard, who went the distance with the outstanding middleweight champion, Marvin Hagler, in November 1983, and who, six years later at the age of 37, shocked the boxing world by beating the Bronx street hood, Iran "The Blade" Barkley, to become a four-weight world champion.

That Duran is no more. But the promoter Don King had been hoping that the Panamanian's popularity, particularly within New York's large Hispanic communities, would attract attention on a day when horseracing - "Real Quiet" is a

hot favourite to become the first Triple Crown winner in 20 years in today's Belmont Stakes - has top priority in New York's sporting calendar.

Duran has never liked horses. On Monday at the Garden's Expo Center, where pre-fight training sessions are taking place, sitting beside the very same ring in which he won two of his four world titles, the aged warrior revealed: "Yes, it's true I once knocked out a horse. It was at a fiesta in my mother's home town of Guarare. Someone bet me a bottle of whiskey that I couldn't do it."

"I didn't know where to hit the horse - it didn't seem to have a jaw. But my uncle, Socrates, told me to catch it just behind the ear and down it went. But I ripped my hand open. You could see right down to the bone. But I was too drunk to feel it and I won the bet."

Something gained, then - Duran admits that as a youngster in Panama he used to throw cats against walls, just for fun. In those early days enter-

tainment was hard to find for the young street fighter, one of eight children deserted by their father.

His family were shackled by a poverty that, legend has it, had Duran swimming two miles across the Panama Canal in order to raid the mango trees of plush Fort Amador on the other side.

Boxing enabled Duran to amass a fortune estimated at \$50m, but most of it has been squandered as the Panamanian playboy, who has eight children of his own by a variety of mothers, pursued a path of self-destruction.

Duran has little to show for his career; a farm, a penthouse in Panama City which the US government used as a base to spy on Noriega. But despite his paying no tax in his homeland, where he is treated like royalty, Duran has a second mortgage on his family home. And a Florida court had ordered that his \$250,000 purse for the fight against Joppy should be withheld because Duran owes

\$41,000 in child support to Elvira Galvin, the mother of Duran's 10-year-old son. His purse has also been earmarked by the Internal Revenue Service to clear unpaid taxes.

His recently estranged promoter for 11 years, Pennsylvanian Mike Acri, said: "If you offered him a cheque for \$100,000 or showed him \$50,000 dollars in cash, he'd take the \$50,000 every time."

"Duran doesn't understand interest of investment - he doesn't want to understand. And the end result is a rags to riches and back to rags story."

Some fighters fight to live, others live to fight. For Duran, the divide appears to have become blurred. There are severe misgivings regarding his ability to live without the sport, but while the pay-days are still there, Duran will be there too.

Former opponent Buchanan has been forced to take a series of dead-end jobs since retiring in 1983, but when asked about Duran's challenge to Joppy, the Scot offered a perspective that only an outsider who was formerly on the inside can fully appreciate.

"Duran's a lucky bastard," Buchanan said.



Henry Akinwande trains in New York before his fight with Evander Holyfield was called off yesterday after the British boxer failed a test for hepatitis B

Photograph: Reuters

## Pregnant pause in fighter's career

SOME BOXERS cannot fight because they fail drug tests. Maria de las Nieves Garcia cannot fight because of a pregnancy test.

After several tests confirmed that the Mexican fighter was pregnant, she was pulled on Thursday from her fight against Christy Martin on the undercard of what would have been today's Evander Holyfield-Henry Akinwande heavyweight title fight.

Nieves Garcia is 21 weeks pregnant and claims she was completely unaware of the fact.

"She had no idea she was pregnant," said Bobby Goodman, Madison Square Garden's director of boxing, a fact that seems especially strange as she already has one child.

"She seemed to be dejected that she was not fighting," said Goodman, adding in response to a question, "no, she didn't appear to be gushing that she was pregnant."

Nieves Garcia, 22, was scheduled to earn \$15,000 (£9,500) to fight Martin, the World Boxing Council's

women's lightweight champion.

Goodman said Nieves Garcia underwent urinalysis and a blood test on Wednesday which revealed she was pregnant. She took another blood test Thursday which also proved positive for pregnancy, he said.

Martin has a deal with promoter Don King to earn \$100,000 for an unreleased number of fights, as long as she keeps on winning. Her opponent's pregnancy was just one reason she will not today.

### TWENTY YEARS OF TITLE FIGHTS

June 1972: Ken Buchanan, New York TKO 13, World Boxing Council lightweight title.	January 1973: Esteban De Jesus, Las Vegas, KO12, WBA/WBC Lightweight title.
January 1973: Jimmy Robertson, Panama KO6, World Boxing Association lightweight title.	June 1980: Ray Leonard, Montreal, W15, WBC Welterweight title.
June 1973: Hector Thompson, Panama TKO8, WBA lightweight title.	November 1980: Ray Leonard, New Orleans, TKO 8, WBC Welterweight title.
September 1973: Ishinatsu Suzuki, Panama TKO 13, WBA lightweight title.	January 1982: Wilfredo Benitez, Las Vegas, L15, WBC Light Middleweight title.
March 1974: Esteban De Jesus, Panama KO11 WBA lightweight title.	June 1982: Davey Moore, New York, TKO8, WBA Light Middleweight title.
December 1974: Masataka Takayama, Costa Rica, TKO7, WBA lightweight title.	November 1983: Marvin Hagler, Las Vegas, L15, WBA/WBC Middleweight titles.
March 1975: Ray Lampkin, Panama KO14, WBA Lightweight title.	June 1984: Thomas Hearns, Las Vegas, KO by 2, WBC Light Middleweight title.
December 1975: Leoncio Ortiz, Puerto Rico, KO15, WBA lightweight title.	January 1985: Vinny Pazienza, Atlantic City, L12, IBC Super Middleweight title.
May 1976: Luz Bizzarra, Philadelphia, KO14, WBA Lightweight title.	February 1986: Ivan Barkley, Atlantic City, W12, WBC Middleweight title.
October 1976: Alvaro Rojas, Florida, KO1, WBA Lightweight title.	December 1986: Ray Leonard, Las Vegas, L12, WBC Super Middleweight title.
January 1977: Wilmer Fernandez, Florida, KO13, WBA Lightweight title.	January 1987: Vinny Pazienza, Atlantic City, L12, IBC Super Middleweight title.
September 1977: Edwin Viruet, Philadelphia, W15, WBA Lightweight title.	June 1986: Hector Camacho, Atlantic City, L12, IBC Super Middleweight title.



Duran (right) lands a shot on Ken Buchanan at Madison Square Garden in 1972

Photograph: AP

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# Buy-out signals end of partnership

## Motor racing

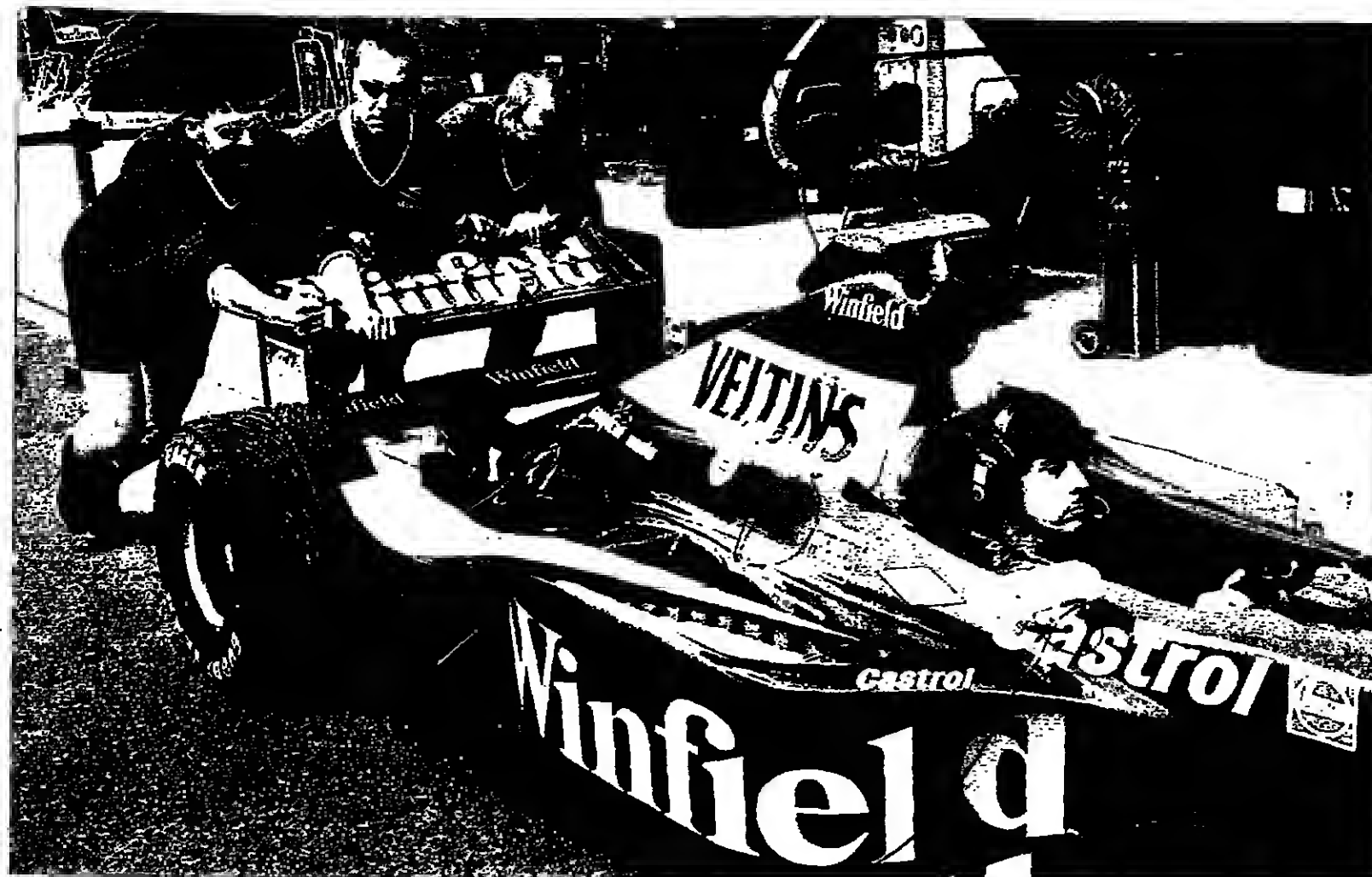
By David Tremayne  
in Montreal

SURPRISE has greeted the imminent split between Ford and engine supplier Cosworth, as a relationship that dates back 35 years is about to be severed by VW's acquisition of the engineering company. If Darby and Joan had separated it could scarcely have raised more eyebrows. Though there have been rumours for many months now of a parting between the two partners, when the news broke yesterday that VW had beaten BMW in the fight to buy Rolls-Royce, it was the talk of the paddock. VW's lucrative offer to acquire Cosworth as well as believed to have been influential in swaying shareholders in Vickers, the parent company of Rolls and Cosworth, to accept the VW bid.

When Ford took the ambitious decision to enter F1 back in 1967, it allocated Cosworth founders Keith Duckworth and Mike Costin a budget of £100,000 to design and develop a three-litre V8 engine. The Ford Cosworth DFV set new standards and won on its debut in Jim Clark's Lotus 49, at the 1967 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort. Overnight Ford's image was revolutionised.

Over the ensuing years the DFV became a legend, winning another 154 victories to establish itself as the most successful Grand Prix racing engine in history. Subsequent Ford-financed Cosworth F1 engines have not lived up to the DFV's legacy, but the Ford Zetec R V8 powered Michael Schumacher to his first World Championship in 1994.

The development comes at a time when there is concern over engine supply in F1. Only recently, powerbroker Bernie Ecclestone, tried very hard to persuade Mercedes-Benz, whose engines power the dominant McLaren's, to supply a second team. Despite his blandishments, Mercedes refused. However, Ecclestone's purchase



Members of Williams's pit crew begin testing the new rear end of their cars in the lead-up to tomorrow's Canadian Grand Prix

Photograph: AP

of a shareholding in Mecachrome, the company currently supplying Renault-based V10 engines to Williams and Benetton, has ensured that they will supply a third team in 1999, Honda, past winners of the World Championship with both Williams and McLaren, are due to return, perhaps by 1999. And BMW is due to race with Williams from 2000. Toyota and Nissan have also expressed interest in competing in F1. Ecclestone will welcome VW's acquisition of Cosworth, since this may help to fast-track the ambitious German marque into an arena in which it has long had an interest; back in 1992 VW offshoot Audi examined closely the feasibility of commissioning an F1 engine from Cosworth.

VW's acquisition of Cosworth's road and racing activities leaves Ford - and Jackie Stewart's team - with the problem of continuing their F1

programme as seamlessly as possible. Ford own the intellectual property rights to the Zetec R V10 engine which powers the Stewarts, and some

suggest they believed they had a deal with Vickers to buy Cosworth. Now they must establish a facility to design, build and develop new engines.

"In the coming months we will be deciding what is the best course of action for us," a Ford spokesman in Canada said. Insiders are already hinting that the break could be just the impetus that Ford needs to convince itself to invest sufficient levels of funding and commitment to match Mercedes-Benz's massive support for F1.

Ford continued: "Since Ford's Advanced Vehicle technology team and Special Vehicle Operations were already providing substantial scientific, technical and engineering services to Cosworth racing, we also have the option of bringing that activity in-house."

However, there are suggestions that Ford may yet buy Cosworth from VW.

### CANADIAN GRAND PRIX

Circuit length: 4.421km (2.747 miles)  
Distance: 69 laps (305.049km/189.553 miles)  
1997 details  
1 M Schumacher (Ferrari)  
2 J Alesi (Benetton)  
3 G Fisichella (Jordan)  
Pole position: Schumacher  
1min 18.095sec  
Fastest lap: D Coulthard  
(McLaren) 1min 18.359sec, lap 37 (avg speed 199.56kph, 124.185mph)

# Bell still laments the old Le Mans magic

By Derrick Allsup

AMERICAN viewers to the Canadian Grand Prix will have to be understanding if the English commentator lapses into romantic illusions to a race on the other side of the Atlantic.

There again, Derek Bell, five-times winner of the Le Mans 24-hour sports car classic, just might tell them what he's not missing. "That awful feeling when you come into the pits in the middle of the night and realise you're not even half way through it."

Pain and exhilaration are co-drivers at Le Mans, and Bell is better acquainted with them than most. At the age of 56 he could be expected to conclude the latter, no longer compensates for the former.

And yet he still yearns for a return to those French fields, explaining only the absence of

viable opportunity and his television commitments steered him away this year.

"You can be sure I'll be keeping an eye on what's happening at Le Mans, particularly as my son is in it," he said. "But it's been so much a part of my life and I hope it will still be part of my life."

Le Mans remains for many a mysterious obsession, a masochistic ritual unconnected to the real world of sport. Bell laments the passing of still more daunting times, before they broke up the fabled Mulsanne Straight, but he is still held by its hypnotic appeal.

"You do go through that 'what am I doing it?' phase sometimes. It can be hard when you're running, two hours at a time, no where near anybody. That's when it becomes tiring."

"I don't think Le Mans can ever be as good as it was

because it changed when they put those chicanes in. The adrenaline really started pumping when you'd got that four mile straight to contend with."

"But the adrenaline will still pump for the guys now, especially going down to Indianapolis. It's still 230mph stuff approaching that corner. I always felt this was the most dangerous part of the circuit. I hate to think about it, but there could be a nasty accident there one of these days."

Twenty seven former Grand Prix drivers are among the customary veteran brigade entered this year, but here, too, Bell sees differences. "People say the characters have gone but of course a lot of the drivers have different attitudes now," he said. "A lot are frustrated Grand Prix drivers, young guys who aren't making it in Formula One."

"When I was younger lots of

drivers were getting killed in Formula One and therefore there were more opportunities in Formula One. Now you've got guys going out there in sports cars trying to prove they should be in Formula One."

Justin Bell drives one of the Chrysler Vipers that are favourites to dominate the GT2 class this weekend, but Bell senior suspects another of Le Mans' legendary names will again take overall honours. He predicts victory tomorrow afternoon for Porsche, especially the Joest Porsche team.

"I'm not being very clever in going for them because they've won it for the last two years, but you have to have a good track record at Le Mans and they have it. I know McLaren were first time out a few years ago but it rained that year and they wouldn't have won if it had been dry." Ex-Formula One man

Michele Alboreto and Stefan Johansson again lead the Joest challenge and Bell believes the combined experience in the cockpit and in the pits, should counter any superior pace in the ranks of the GT1 runners.

The other sports racers look more vulnerable. BMW's alliance with Williams ought to prove formidable given time. This test may have come too soon. Ferrari, buoyed by success at Daytona, are out in force but have little realistic hope, while the Courage Nissan are striking fear in few of their opponents.

The GT1 Nissan crew from the TWR stable are distinctly more bullish. Caught short first time out last year, they have improved the car and tested extensively in preparation for this one. They also have a strong line-up, which includes John Nielsen, Franck Lagorce, Erik Comas and Jan Lammers.

One man who will rue victory for Nissan is Martin Brundle, who puts down his microphone to make his annual pilgrimage to Le Mans. This year, however, he has parted company with his long time mentor, Tom Walkinshaw and drives for Toyota.

"I don't think Nissan will do it," Brundle said. "If we keep going we'll be right there, I'm sure, I'm in good shape, I'm quick and I'm up for it. We can win this." At 39, Brundle is a relative youngster in this event. Bell emphasises with his enthusiasm.

"There's nothing else like it," Bell said. "If I can get a good car and a proper programme together to prepare for next year, I'd like to do it again. Not to get the sixth win and equal the record, but to compete with the front runners. I love racing and I love Le Mans."

# Goulding out in the cold at St Helens

## Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THERE is still no place for the Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, in the St Helens' team to travel to Castleford tomorrow - a fact that is bound to increase speculation about a parting of the ways.

Two other players left out of last week's starting line-up by the Saints coach, Shaun McRae, are recalled, with Damien Smith at centre and Karl Hammond at loose-forward. Andy Haigh and Apollo Perrelli drop to the bench. But McRae has continued to ignore the claims of Goulding, opting instead for the pairing of Sean Long and Timmy Martyn at half-back.

Two other Super League coaches threatened extensive changes after sub-standard performances last week. In the event, Salford's Andy Gregory has had some changes forced upon him, with Phil Hassen and Martin Crompton both suffering from back injuries. Mark Lee makes his first Super League start of the season at scrum-half against Wigan, while Robert Russell - the latest off the production line at the Eccles club that also nurtured Nathan Aspinall and Adrian Morley - makes his debut on the wing.

Salford have signed another young player of outstanding

promise, the British Amateur Rugby League Association's Youth Player of the Year, Stuart Littler, from Leigh Miners-Rangers.

Wigan's 20-year-old prop, Neil Baynes, makes his first appearance this year, preferred to Terry O'Connor, who remains in the A team.

Last weekend's other obviously dissatisfied coach was Sheffield Eagles' John Kear. He criticised his Wembley-winners' lack of hunger and indicated changes that will begin, but perhaps not finish, with a first start of the season for Willie Morgan.

Sheffield's opponents, London, have one injured player back in Chris Ryan, but are still without Martin Offiah. John Timu and Mark Carroll.

Warrington will be missing Adam Doyle, who needs a groin operation, as well as Lee Briens, while Brendon Tutu faces a fitness test before tomorrow evening's visit from Bradford. The Bulls replace Danny Peacock, out for the season with a serious knee injury, with the versatile Nathan Grahame.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association's chief executive, Maurice Oldroyd, will learn next month whether any action is to be taken against him over allegations of irregularities involving Baria tours. Oldroyd has been suspended from his job during investigations.

# Lawyer disputes tests on De Bruin

## Swimming

THE lawyer of the Irish Olympic champion, Michelle De Bruin, has angrily disputed reports that traces of artificially-produced testosterone have been found in one of her urine samples.

The solicitor, Peter Lennan, said the reports were "further attempts to discredit Michelle". He added: "This is a very malicious piece of publicity on the part of the International Olympic Committee."

Lennan said that the latest type of test undertaken on De Bruin's urine samples had not been approved by the Olympics authorities. "The IOC seem to be saying that in this case we are going to effectively hang, draw and quarter Michelle De Bruin regardless."

Their latest move, he alleged, was designed to "create further doubt and suspicion". "They are putting this information into the public domain as part of a softening up process," he said. "It is an attempt by the IOC to interfere with the course of justice."

On the question of a banned substance being found, Lennan said: "I am not in the business of discussing hypotheses. I am

in the business of ensuring that someone as noteworthy as Michelle De Bruin gets a fair trial from the parties who are accusing her of wrongdoing."

"In this particular case, we have the IOC, who have no particular involvement, releasing evil rumour and innuendo into the public domain."

Reports from Spain said the Olympic Committee medical chief, Prince Alexandre de Merode, had talked of a new test to probe for artificial evidence of the banned testosterone hormone and that these new methods had been used on urine samples provided by Ms De Bruin at her Irish home in January. The unnamed officials said a Barcelona laboratory had uncovered signs of artificially-produced testosterone.

De Bruin could not be punished even if the result was confirmed, because the test has not been recognised officially as a method for catching competitors who take drugs.

De Bruin created a sensation by winning three gold medals and one bronze in Atlanta two years ago. Last month, IOC officials said indications of tampering in two urine samples provided by her would be investigated.

## Sporting Digest

### Brady pays heavy penalty of run in with Law

#### Sailling

GAVIN BRADY will forever curse a pair of unnecessary penalties and the squandering of the third semi-final race of his third attempt to win the Hoya Lymington Cup, writes Stuart Alexander.

At 1-1 in a best of five, the New Zealander had Britain's Chris Law in all sorts of pre-start trouble. Law had two penalties against him, which Brady took advantage of with a clear run at

the start line. But he put his nose over early and, in returning to restart, Law exonerated one penalty and thus managed to keep a lead.

At the second 800-yard beat Law cleverly held Brady out and then quickly executed his second penalty turn to go into the final leg ahead and hold off a determined bid by Brady to run him down.

As Brady had thrown away the chance to win the first race

because of picking up a penalty, and then was rewarded with another for being too early into the manoeuvres at the start of the fourth, his goose was cooked.

Meeting Law in the best-of-seven final today will be France's Bertrand Pace, who dispatched another Kiwi, Murray Jones, 3-0 without ever having to stretch himself.

The two New Zealanders will fight it out over five races for third place.

### Capitals celebrate reaching the Stanley Cup

#### Ice hockey

WASHINGTON was celebrating late into the night on Thursday, as the Capitals, finally did what no one thought possible, writes Andrew Marshall in Washington.

After 24 seasons marked more often by despair than delirium, they made it into the finals of America's most prestigious ice hockey prize: the Stanley Cup.

By beating the more fancied Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Thursday night, the Caps won the National Hockey League Eastern Conference finals by four games to two. They will now face

either the Detroit Red Wings or the Dallas Stars, depending on the outcome of their playoffs. The Red Wings lead three games to two, and were hoping to tie up the seven-game play-offs last night.

Washington is not a town where ice hockey normally warms the blood. The last time a baseball team won the World Series was 1924 (They are long gone, and hopes are now pinned on the Baltimore Orioles).

Only DC United, the city's soccer team, have shown themselves to be capable of calling themselves champions.

By winning the Prince of Wales trophy, they have assured themselves of a place in history, but the Caps will now want more, as will their success-starved fans.

"It's been a long time coming," said Dale Hunter, the team captain.

The Sabres were by no means a pushover. Dominik Hasek, their goal tender, was an Olympic gold medalist and is regarded as the best in the game. But Olaf Kolzig, the huge Caps goaltender (his nickname is "Godzilla"), also played a blinder, stopping 39 of 41 shots.

#### Athletics

The American Jeff Hartwig became only the eighth pole vaulter to clear six metres on Thursday at the St Helens International meet. Athletics compares the metric barrier to the four minute mile.

Britain's top sprinter Sherrone Jones, has been forced to pull out of the International against Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the North after going down with a stomach bug.

The American Robert Howard achieved the longest long jump in the world this year, a wind-assisted 8.37m, at the US collegiate championships on Thursday.

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## Rugged runners of forest and fell

By Paul McGreal

THE fast and physical sport of orienteering is a world away from the memories many of us hold from school trips to the countryside and Scout camp. In short, orienteering is navigating through moor and forest terrain between set marked points using a special map.

Choose your own route, and the fastest competitor to complete the course wins. On paper, simple enough, but orienteering is extremely challenging. However, its attraction lies in the combination of the stunning places runners get to visit, the mental contest and the exercise.

The sport caters for virtually all ages and ability, from the elite runners who last week tackled a 13km course in the Lake District,

which involved 2,000ft of climb through difficult, wooded terrain in under 80 minutes, to the seven to 70 year olds who compete every week. It is a growing sport, more than 1,100 events were held in the UK last year, and there are high hopes of inclusion in the 2004 Olympics.

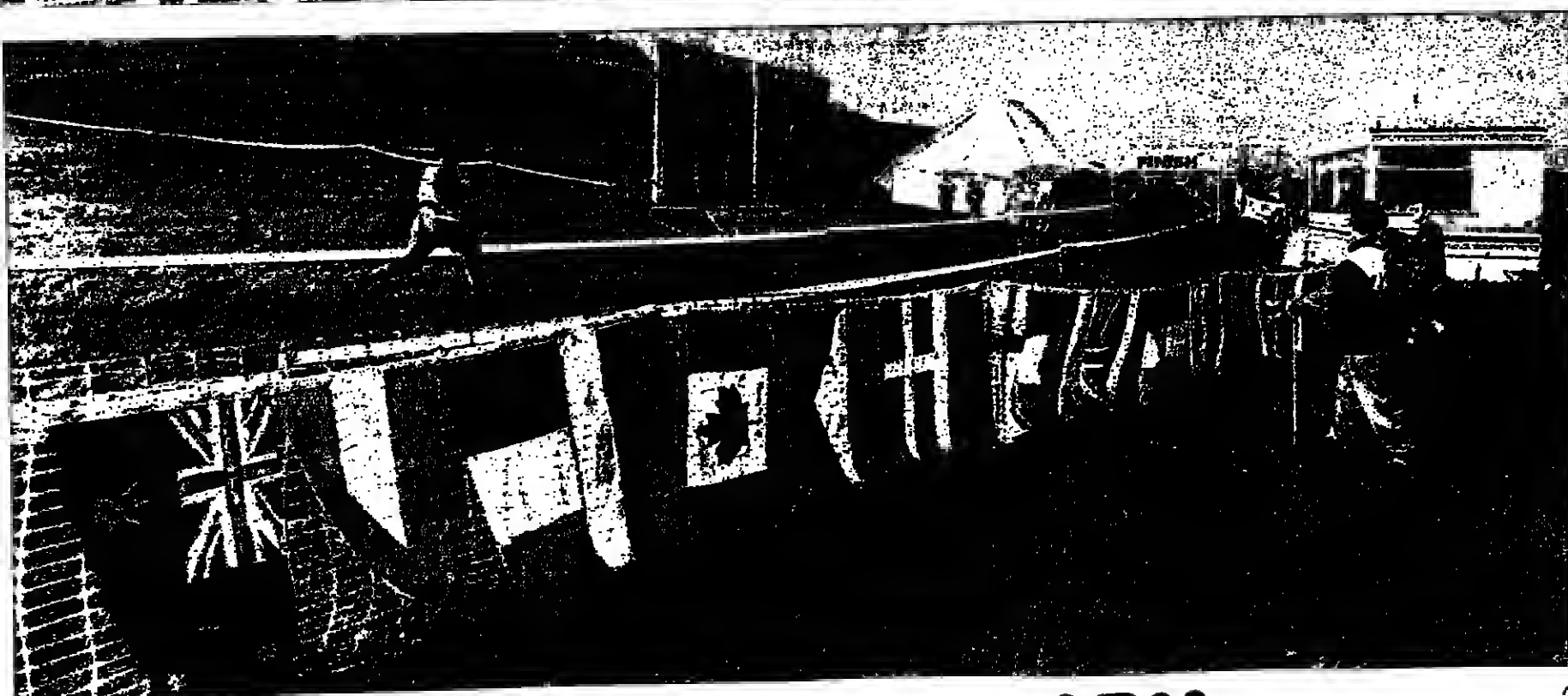
The World Cup came to Lake District for three races, attracting more than 200 competitors from 29 nations, including Denmark's Carsten Jorgensen, the European cross-country champion, who ignores lucrative opportunities in athletics because "orienteering's more fun."

● Copies of these photographs - and others by *The Independent's* sports photographers, David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam, can be ordered by telephoning 0171 293 2534.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUI VIERA



Katarina Borg	25:55	23	Tine Rasmussen
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Reeta-Mari Kolkala	26:52		
Gundila Svard	27:05		
Johanna Askhof	27:15		
Tatiana Perelhasova	27:21		
Hanne Staff	27:25		
Birgitte Wolf	27:31		
Anniina Paronen	27:35		
Heather Monro	27:41		
Birgitte Husebye	27:51		
Karin Crain	28:01		



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# Fiesta final ahead for Spaniards

Tennis

By John Roberts  
in Paris

It was 15 years to the day since Yannick Noah's home triumph, but the cry of celebration at the French Open was "Ole!" The local boy, Cedric Pioline, possessed the strength of will but not of body to prevent Alex Corretja from guaranteeing an all-Spanish final.

So tomorrow it will be Carlos Moya, seeded No 12, versus Alex Corretja, seeded No 14, the second time in five years that Spain has taken over Roland Garros. In 1994, Sergi Bruguera defeated his compatriot Alberto Berasategui in four sets.

Corretja defeated Pioline, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, the Frenchman's struggle to keep pace with his opponent becoming increasingly difficult after he had double-faulted to lose the second set.

Pioline had played two consecutive five-set matches in advancing to the last four and had spent an hour longer on the court than his opponent, even though it was Corretja who had contested the longest Grand Slam singles match ever recorded (5hr 31 min) in defeating the Argentinian Hernan Gummy in the third round.

The Frenchman's reputation as one of the sport's bridesmaids is listed in 12 losing finals, including two defeats by Pete Sampras, at Wimbledon last year and the 1993 United States Open.

Yesterday's semi-final was Corretja's first in a Grand Slam championships. He is perhaps best remembered for his match against Sampras in the quarter-finals of the 1996 US Open. On that occasion he double-faulted on match point to the visibly ill Sampras, saying afterwards, "It was probably the best match of my career, and it is probably the worst one." Sampras went on to win the title.



Carlos Moya plays a backhand on the way to defeating his fellow Spaniard Felix Mantilla in the French Open semi-finals yesterday Photograph: Allsport

Moya's skills with a tennis ball on the Centre Court at Roland Garros were much admired when he participated in an impromptu kick-about with three Spanish compatriots after hitting with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario prior to her semi-final victory against Lindsay Davenport on Thursday.

The 21-year-old from Majorca juggled with the ball and headed it over the net with the unconscious joy of a holidaymaker on one of his native beaches. Yesterday,

racket in hand, he returned to the mecca of clay court tennis with his friend Felix Mantilla, from Barcelona, to duel for a place in tomorrow's French Open men's singles final.

"The last two days we had dinner together, but on the court we are not friends," said Mantilla. "You try the best for yourself."

Moya followed the philosophy to the letter, winning 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, after two hours and 42 minutes.

The crux came in the third

set. Moya, 1-4 down, proceeded to win seven consecutive games, five of them for the loss of only five points, to take the set. "I just decided to take more risks on my forehand, and everything worked out," he said.

Moya trusts that his fortunes will continue to flourish tomorrow, when he contests his second Grand Slam singles final. He was defeated by Pete Sampras in straight sets at the 1997 Australian Open final, and that was the only time

he had advanced beyond the second round of any Grand Slam until he arrived at Roland Garros two weeks ago for his third crack at the French title.

"Everything was new for me in Australia," he said. "I think it is different now, because I am not going to the court as a loser, as I did there. Then everything was fine for me to be in the final. Here I want even more, and I am going to do my best to win the tournament. I know I have a good chance. I'm playing well

right now. I'm going to try to take it."

Spanish men have won eight Grand Slam singles titles. Sergi Bruguera (2), Andres Gimeno and Manuel Santana (2) at the French, Santana at Wimbledon, and Santana and Manuel Orantes at the United States Open.

Moya is also close friends with Corretja, but the same rules apply. "When you get to the court, you fight like crazy. You try to step on him if necessary."

## Seles puts her final task into perspective

EXEMPLIFYING the admirable composure which has marked her progress to this afternoon's French Open women's singles final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Monica Seles put the event into perspective.

"I do feel happy," she said. "It's really great. But I've tried to keep a sense of balance if I win or lose. Once I leave the site, it's not going to make a difference in my life. I'm still going to be missing people that I lost this year and last year."

The words were spoken almost matter-of-factly by an athlete who has spent most of the past five years coming to terms with the harsher aspects of celebrity and family heartaches.

After the death of her father and coach, Karoli, only 12 days before the tournament started, today's activity represents a welcome diversion.

"I'm fighting for every single point," she said. "I'm not going to give a free point. If someone is going to beat me, they'll have to beat me because they're better. But I have my family and I have my really good friends, who have always been there. They will love me if I'm 100th in the world or No 1 in the world."

"I don't have those - I don't know if you call them insecurities - but some players feel if they're not doing well, people will not like them, and so on. To me it doesn't matter. I'm going to be determined, because I know what I want out of my life for the next few years."

Seles's stunning semi-final victory against Martina Hingis prompted much trumpeting that the real Seles was back - the one who dominated before being stabbed in 1993.

John Roberts on how the former No 1 has battled against adversity

"I don't think the real Monica ever left," she responded. "I just think that when there's so many things going on outside your life, it's very difficult. I mean, I'm not a computer, able to keep my mind from thinking about life and issues and then go on a tennis court and be really excited about hitting a ball, or to be consistently training four hours every day, six days a week, which is what I used to do."

Seles has won 14 of her 16 previous matches against Sanchez Vicario, including a 6-3, 6-4 victory over the Spanish retriever in 1991, the second of her three consecutive French Open titles. The last of Seles's nine Grand Slam titles was won at the 1996 Australian Open with a straight sets final victory against Anke Huber.

Sanchez Vicario, who defeated Graf in the 1989 final at Roland Garros and Mary Pierce in 1994, can be one of the most difficult opponents to subdue. It has taken the Spaniard time to find form this year, her progress having been hampered by injuries to a leg and wrist. "It's going to be a tough match for me in the final," she said. "But, you know, I will be ready to play."

Seles expects nothing less. "I lost the last time I played Arantxa, in New York in December," she said, "but it's a new match. I'm just going to go out there, do what I can control, and play the best tennis that I can."

## Westwood survives reprimand to chase the leader

Golf

Andy Westwood

Lee Westwood there is beating about the bush. Or, at least, there won't be any. His grandmother, who has been known to win the odd bet on the 25-year-old from Wokingham, has seen to that.

One of Westwood's prime assets is his calm temperament, but he does not quite have a scratch handicap in that department. At

two weeks ago, he caught by the very camera crew a swindler in a Peter Allen mentioned it on the commentary and Westwood duly received a reprimand.

"I was just trimming the bush but my grandma told me off," Westwood said. "She told me it wasn't the bush's fault." Yesterday Westwood twice lashed out at the land but a second successive 68 left him at eight under par and only a shot behind the early clubhouse leader, Patrik Sjoland.

National Car Rental may have taken over as the sponsor of the British Open but it hardly represents an endorsement of the Basil Fawlty clogging manner of expressing emotions.

Westwood's day did not start well when he drove behind a tree at the 10th and when he found his second shot had come to rest not just in a bunker but one which had not been raked properly.

Having escaped the bunker, but with a bogey about to be

recorded on his card, Westwood took aim at the sand. Later, when he had got round to the first, he attempted to drive the green at the dogleg-left, 317-yard hole and found the rough in front of the green.

"That hole is doing my head in," he said. "I still don't know how to play it. Robert Allenby and I were both in the rough and, he had a shot and I didn't because the rough is so inconsistent."

Only able to hack out, Westwood then slammed his club in

the ground. "I shouldn't really lose my temper," he admitted. "It does not do me any good. I get frustrated but then I try and calm down, take a couple of deep breaths quickly and just think what an idiot I've been slamming my club into the ground."

"I never really whacked it that hard, I was just tapping my divot back at the first and smoothing the sand at the tenth."

Granny Westwood, who won £140 when Westwood was

victorious in New Orleans in April, is not the only one to have the odd word with the man whose victory in Germany on Monday was his fifth in seven months. His coach Peter Cowen, not having much to say add technically to Westwood's game, keeps emphasising the mental side.

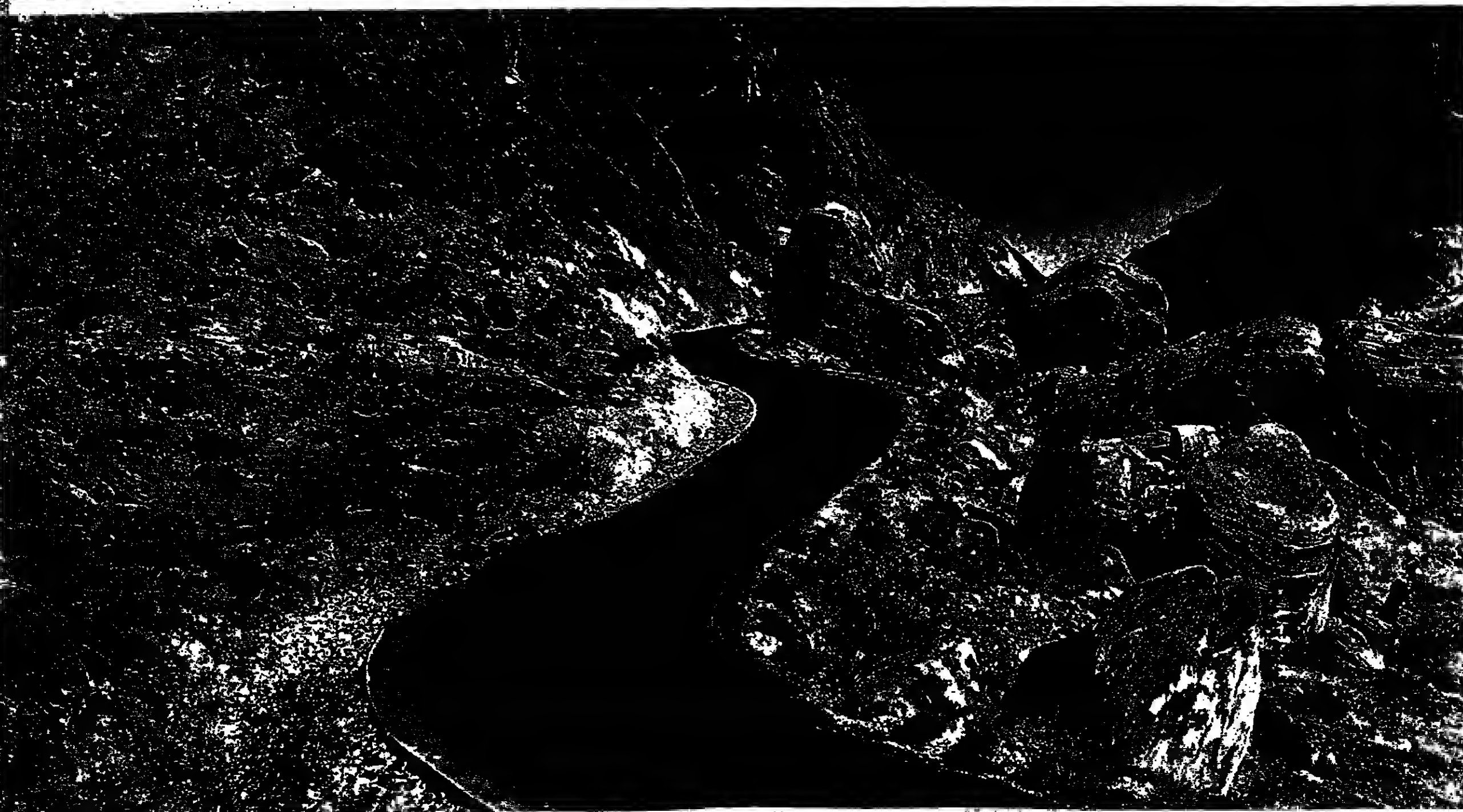
"He just tells me not to lose my temper. He says it's my best quality and when I lose that the rest of my game starts to go. You get frustrated now and again, which is only natural."

Just ask Colin Montgomerie. The overnight leader quickly fell off the leaderboard when he found the lake at the second hole and took a double bogey seven.

He went to the turn in 39 and, after collecting eight birdies in his 64 on Thursday, had to wait until the 13th for his first yesterday. Two more followed at 16 and 17. The smile was back as he returned to eight under but the course that he had lauded only a day before had responded in a most spiteful way.

"Hopefully the bad round is out of the way," he said. "I'm only one behind and that's encouraging. I'm going nowhere. I'm still up there and I'll still be up there on Sunday afternoon."

Sjoland's had a 67, two outside the day's best from Paul Affleck, to continue the 27-year-old Swede rich vein of form. The Italian Open winner also finished second at the PGA Championship. "I am confident hitting the ball and with my putting which makes it a lot easier," Sjoland said.



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# England hoping 'Baby Whites' can earn respect

By Chris Hewett  
in Brisbane

THE best efforts of David Campese and Michael Lynagh notwithstanding, rugby union continues to lag behind rugby league in the average Australian's sporting affections. The gap seemed wider than ever in Brisbane last night, while the 13-man game was throbbing with the partisan passions unleashed by the annual Queensland-New South Wales spectacular, the union minority were struggling to work up some enthusiasm for the visit of an England team of less than dazzling anonymity. The State of Origin on the one hand, a complete state on the other. No contest.

Yet today's Cook Cup meeting between Australia and the old country at the Suncoast Stadium is pregnant with historic potential: indeed, a decisive victory for either side will have a number of ramifications both on and off the field. If England, with their five new caps and rank upon rank of second-stringers apparently elevated beyond their station, were to lose by 50—an eventuality favoured

by the harder-nosed Brisbane bookies—the political wrangle over who runs what in England will inevitably flare up once more.

If, however, Tony Diprose were to lead his fresh-faced charges to the most extraordinary triumph since the biblical David got lucky with a slingshot, Clive Woodward and his fellow selectors might be tempted to call time on some eminent England careers. Certainly, the odds would lengthen against the Guscotts, Leonards, Johnsons and Roddens sailing serenely under their own steam towards next year's World Cup.

"We had the Baby Blacks back home in New Zealand," said John Mitchell, the All Black No 8 turned England assistant coach, recalling the events of 1986 when his country lost virtually an entire side to a rebel tour of South Africa yet still managed to beat a quality French team 18-9 in Christchurch. "If this game marks the emergence of the Baby Whites, well fine. I'd be one happy guy."

Certainly a whole lot happier than Pat Sanderson, the Sale

wing-forward. Scheduled to make his Test debut on the open-side flank, Sanderson went down with tonsillitis last night and was replaced by another debutant, Richard Pool-Jones, the former Wasp who has recently been playing out of his socks for the French champions Stade Français in Paris. "I'm not intimidated in any way," he said. "My last game was in front of 80,000 cup final supporters at the Stade de France and I'm sure the French would tell you that I'm worth my place."

Worriedly, neither Mitchell nor Woodward were remotely as bullish yesterday. "I can't fault the enthusiasm or desire shown by these young players over the week or so we've had on the training pitch, but whether those attributes will be enough against a big and direct Wallaby side is anyone's guess," admitted Mitchell, as open and honest as ever. "I've never been in this kind of situation before. We've got 80 minutes to earn the respect of the Australians and if we fail, we'll earn ourselves some humiliation instead."

But for the late cry-offs from Will Greenwood and Neil Back and the wounding eleven-hour withdrawal of Matt Dawson, the scrum-half and tour captain, England might just have fancied their chances of forcing John O'Neill, Dick McCrum and the rest of the Wallaby hierarchy to spend the rest of the year contemplating an unpalatable diet of their own words. As Rod Macqueen, the Australian coach, acknowledged earlier in the week, his side are only in the foothills of the peaks scaled so imperiously by the Campo generation.

Mitchell wants his forwards, especially, to fight for their honour today. He will accept defeat—the circumstances are such that he has little choice in the matter—but he will not accept capitulation.

## AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND

at Suncoast Stadium, Brisbane	
M Burke	NSW
B Tunc	Queensland
D Herbert	Queensland
T Horan	Queensland
J Roff	ACT
S Larkham	ACT
G Grogan	ACT
R Harry	NSW
P Kearns	NSW
A Blades	NSW
T Bowman	NSW
J Eales	Queensland, capt.
M Cockbain	Queensland
D Wilson	Queensland
T Kefu	Queensland
Replacements: 16 C Whitaker (NSW); 17 M Gray (NSW); 18 J Little (Queensland); 19 V Oshagangue (NSW); 20 P Fienan (ACT); 21 D Crowley (Queensland); 22 J Paul (ACT).	
Referee: A Watson (South Africa)	
Kick-off: 11.0 BST (Sky Sports 1)	

## John calls in backs for the future

WALES have named three new caps in their side to face Zimbabwe in Harare today.

Full-back David Weatherley and wing Richard Rees, both of Swansea, are joined by the 19-year-old prop Darren Morris for the opening game of Wales' six-match tour of southern Africa. The Wales caretaker coach,

Dennis John, has also recalled Mark Jones of Ebbw Vale.

The Irish centre, Jonathan Bell, is out of his country's tour of South Africa through a hamstring injury, the tour manager, Donal Lenihan, said yesterday. WALES (v Zimbabwe, today, Harare): O Weatherley (Swansea); R Rees (Swansea); O Jones (Ebbw Vale); M Taylor (Swansea); W Proctor (Llanelli); A Thomas (Swansea); R Horeley (Cardiff, capt.); O Morris (Neath).

G. Jenkins (Swansea); J Davies (Richmond); M Jones (Ebbw Vale); A Moore (Swansea); N Thomas (Cardiff); S Gilmour (Richmond); M Williams (Pontypool); B Williams (Richmond); C Davies (Swansea); C Wyatt (Llanelli); B Hayward (Ebbw Vale); J Fennell (Ebbw Vale); P John (Pontypool); K. Morgan (Oxford); E Elwood (McGill); J Fitzpatrick; A Clarke; P Wallace; P John (capt.); M O'Driscoll; D Gough; A Ward; D O'Donnoghue; B. Henderson; P O'Meara; O Humphreys; R Henderson; P O'Donnoghue; B Jackson; O Pugh; V Costello.



Young men's game: England's Jonny Wilkinson (left) and Wallaby Stephen Larkham face each other in today's Test match

Photographs: Allsport

## Wilkinson bears comparison

THEY have yet to play a match, but England's rugby tourists are finding salvation hard to come by under the sub-tropical winter sun of Queensland. Nervous and apprehensive were among the words and phrases uttered by the senior coaches, Clive Woodward and John Mitchell, as they weighed up the prospects for today's one-off Test with the Wallabies in Brisbane.

And no wonder. Not only will the tourists be looking to a fresh-faced threequarter line and a callow loose trio to man the barricades against a potent Australian outfit, but they will ask a mere boy, the 19-year-old Jonny Wilkinson, to organise matters from the fulcrum position of outside-half, a role he has not performed in any of his previous five minutes of international rugby.

Yet if England were seeking some sort of psychological sustenance as the build-up to the game slipped into overdrive yesterday, they could relax in the knowledge that, for all his lack of shaving kit, Wilkinson has far more experience of the pressures and traumas of life at No 10 than his opposite number, Stephen Larkham. Indeed, England's latest contribution to "yooof culture" is a

The two No 10s in opposition for today's one-off Test are both international novices. Chris Hewett reports from Brisbane

positive greybeard by comparison with the gangling 24-year-old Brumby from downtown Canberra.

If Wilkinson is at stand-off by long cherished design, Larkham's move from full-back is entirely the idea of someone else, namely Rod Macqueen, the Wallaby coach. "I played there in the school and junior ranks, but that's about it," he admitted during a brief respite from intensive training in Caloundra this week.

"I don't suppose I've worn 10 on more than three occasions at senior level, but Rod has been pushing me in this direction for a couple of years now and he seems to be thinking in the long term. I don't mind the move—I don't really have any option but to look at it in a positive light—but I have asked for some time to settle in."

All of which should come as music to English ears. Australia has given rugby some of its very greatest play-making outside-halves, from Phil Hawthorne in the 1960s through to Mark Ella and Michael Lynagh of more recent vintage, but they are comprehensively

stumped for a pivot right now. Elton Flatley, the oest big thing as recently as last autumn, has already put a brilliant future behind him, leaving Larkham to shoulder the heaviest positional burden of them all.

Wilkinson, bless his youthful swagger, simply does not see it as a burden. A regular rugby player since turning up at Farnham RFC in a specially reinforced romper suit at the age of four and a specialist midfield architect from the moment he began running rings around under-13 opponents at the age of 10, he has harboured designs on the England shirt that matters most for longer than he cares to remember.

"I've spent virtually all of my senior career in the centre, so it has taken me a little while to reacquire myself with the specifics of outside-half play," he said yesterday. "The last week of acclimatisation and training have been a great help, though, and I feel I'm back to my old ways."

"It's a big responsibility, I know, but I've basically been a stand-off all my life. I see this as my big chance; having been

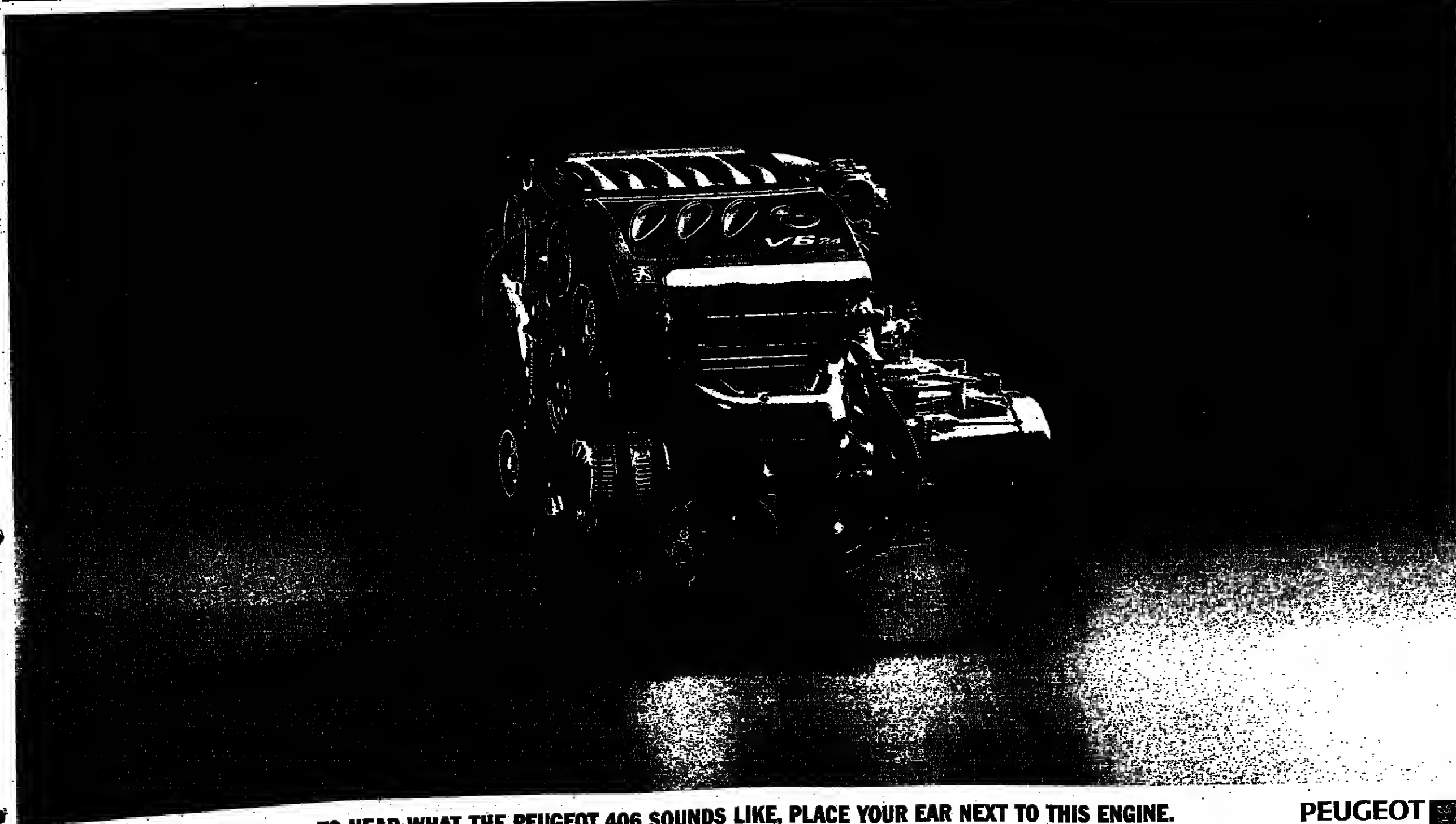
a matter for the Newcastle management, as it will be again next season," he said.

"Quite simply, I'm happy to be in the team. The whole Newcastle experience has taught me a massive amount and while I'm younger than the guys around me, both at club and national level, I'm learning all the time. Rob phoned me on Thursday night actually, just to help me out on a few things I can expect to experience against the Wallabies. It was good of him, really helpful."

"Anyway, I'm none too keen on this 'Boy Wonder' stuff. I don't believe what I hear or what I read and neither do my friends and advisers, who are the people who really matter. As I see it, I've been selected by the England management because of what they've seen of me; they have a game plan for the Australians and I seem to be the one they consider best suited to it."

Woodward has attempted to lighten the load by asking Tim Stimpson to start as the goal-kicker, even though the high full-back has not taken aim in anger since well before Christmas. However, Stimpson will have to fire on his 1997 Lions cylinders to prevent the oest-come from lining up a shot at some point or other.

Not that the great English rugby public have seen much evidence of that two-footed precocity. Wilkinson was good enough to split up the Va'alga Tuigamala-Alan Tait midfield partnership as Newcastle launched their ultimately successful Allied Dunbar Premiership run-in back in March, but he could not shift the venerable Rob Andrew from the stand-off berth for love nor money. "It was



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# Platini still playing by his own rules

An icon of French football is not just a figurehead at the World Cup. He is aiming for one of the game's top jobs. John Lichfield in Paris reports

Michel Platini was once declared too feeble to play professional football. He was asked to test his stamina by blowing as hard as he could into a machine operated by a consultant doctor engaged by FC Metz. After a couple of minutes, the young Platini fainted.

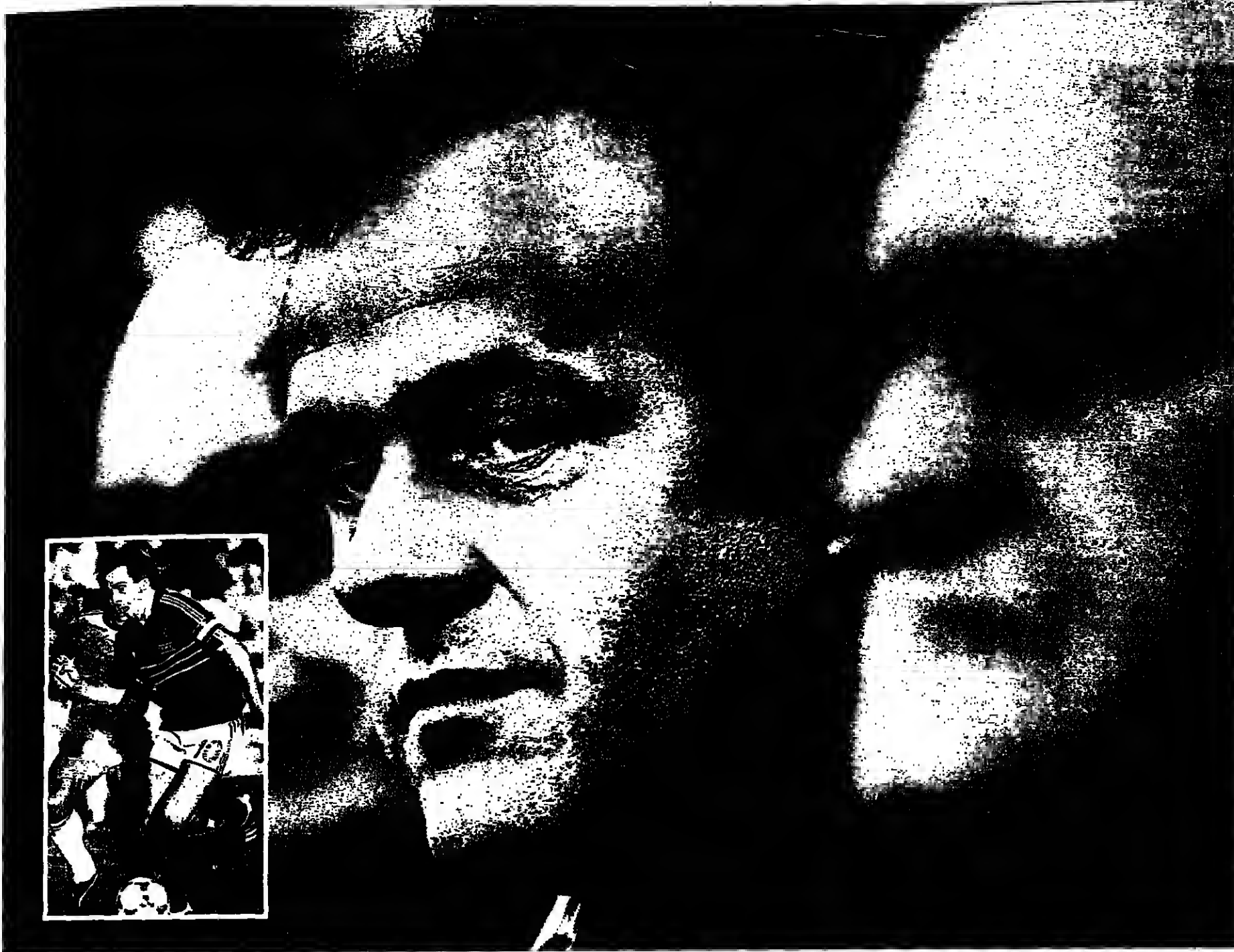
The 17-year-old reject went on to become, in succession: captain of the French team which won the European Nations' Cup in 1984; a European Cup winner with Juventus; the most elegant and exciting footballer of his generation; trainer of the French national team (his only failure to date) and, since 1992, co-president of the French World Cup Organising Committee. Not a figurehead co-president either.

Michel Platini – he of the suspect stamina – has already gone further in the game than any leading, professional player has ever gone. Like Pele and Bobby Charlton and Franz Beckenbauer, Platini has made the rare leap from the non-commissioned ranks of players and managers into football's Officer Class. Unlike Pele, Charlton and Beckenbauer, he has become, not just an ambassador for the game, but a genuinely powerful, and effective, football administrator.

At the age of 42, the boy with weak lungs is still running. On Monday, two days before the opening game of "his" World Cup, Michel Platini may rise to the rarefied and poisonous summit of the world's most popular sport. He is the de facto "running mate" of the FIFA secretary general, Sepp Blatter, in the race to succeed Joao Havelange as president of football's ruling body. (Blatter was also a professional player but hardly a well-known one.)

If the Blatter-Platini ticket succeeds when the 198 FIFA members vote in Paris on Monday, the Frenchman will take up a post created for him as FIFA's sports director. In such a post, Platini promises to return "football to the footballers"; to halt the drift of the game into show-business and high-finance; to break the stranglehold of the "big clubs"; and make football more "democratic". But what does all that mean?

Why have he and the French federation broken ranks with most other European federations in backing Blatter, against the Swedish



Michel Platini (inset, in his playing days) sits alongside Fifa president Joao Havelange (right), despite having sided with Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary general. Photograph: Allsport

head of the European football union (Uefa), Lennart Johansson?

If he wants to change things, why is Platini teaming up with the candidate of the FIFA old guard? Platini is, or was, a universally popular figure. Why are nasty words – like "betrayal" being used behind his back; and not just behind his back?

Platini, the international celebrity, elegant footballer and easy-going personality, has always had a brooding and unknowable side to his character. It is said in the French game that he has dozens of "copains" (pals) – largely from the glittering 1982-6 generation of players – but no friends. Beneath the cheery, debonair, occasionally moody, public face, there is still a passion to succeed against all the odds, to prove people wrong, to triumph among the bigger boys.

Visitors to his office at the

headquarters of the French World Cup organising committee in the chic 16th arrondissement are invariably given a little lecture on how, he, Michel Platini, grandson of Italian immigrants, who left school with only his "Brevet d'Etude du Premier Cycle" (broadly the same as GCSE) has become the "patron" of people who have attended the most elite French educational establishments.

"All I have learned, I have learned from people, not books," he tells visitors. But he also admits that the transition from brain-and-foot work to brain-and-mouth work has not come easily.

"Here I have to weigh the slightest word for the impact that it might have. On the field, I just had to say: 'Espece de conard, tu me fais chier, donne-moi le ballon.' (Which can be roughly translated into English soccer idiom as 'You little

wanker. You make me want to shit. Give me the ball.')"

Platini was born in Joué, a small town near Metz in Lorraine. His father, Aldo, was a teacher and amateur soccer coach; his mother,

The FA has declared its support for Sepp Blatter to be the next FIFA president. Lancaster Gate previously supported the Uefa chief, Lennart Johansson, but Johansson has backed the German bid for the 2006 World Cup. Earlier this week, Blatter pledged support for an African bid. It is clear the FA believe he is the better of two uncomfortable choices.

Anna, kept a bar – the Bar des Sportifs. He learned to play football on the street, where he called himself "Pélatini". At the age of seven, his thunderous free-kicks, later to grace the word's finest stadia, were

already threatening the life and property of the neighbours.

The pulmonary miscalculations of the Metz club doctor – he still works for the club – proved the good fortune of neighbours and rivals AS Nancy-Lorraine. Within four years, at the age of 21, Platini was in the midfield of the French national team, scoring with a bullet free-kick against the Czechs. He moved on to Saint Etienne and then Juventus, scoring the winner with a penalty in a European Cup final; one which he, and the world, would prefer to forget, against Liverpool at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels in May 1985.

After retiring as a player in 1987, and after a failed business venture, Platini became the manager of an under-achieving French squad from 1988-92. So soon after resigning as French coach – because the French league rebuffed his demands for an

18-club first division – Platini was approached to join the organising team for the 1998 World Cup. He made it clear in an outspoken interview in the magazine *Sport Plus* that he was interested, but only if he was the boss. He did not want to be an "ambassador", treated as an errand boy with a big name.

It was decided, partly through typically Florentine machinations by the then French President François Mitterrand, that Platini would be one of two bosses, paired as co-president with a veteran soccer administrator, Fernand Sastre, 74, the man who had brought the World Cup to France.

As co-president, Platini was unpaid but has worked astonishingly hard. "I came to the office every morning," he says. "No one expected that." It was Platini who pushed through a couple of the decisions which will shape this World Cup. It

was his idea to have all the teams move all around the country in the first stage, rather than have a regional base for each group, as in previous contests. The idea was to give the whole of France a chance to see the better teams (and, perhaps, to increase the take from travel and hotels).

Secondly, it was Platini who suggested that the organising committee should recruit its own sponsors, on top of the FIFA sponsors, and without going through a recruiting agency. The financial results have been spectacularly good but the sponsorship deals have creamed off a large proportion of the best seats, for the best games. (Otherwise, it is difficult to blame Platini and the other French organisers for the great France 98 ticket row. The rules and the allocation of tickets were laid down by FIFA.)

The boy from Joué likes to present himself as a plain-dealer, "a man of convictions, not a man of compromise." But his new alliance with Sepp Blatter is shot through with, if not compromise, then contradictions.

Here is Platini, a football millionaire, who helped line up the big sponsorships for France 98, talking of curbing the power of money in football; and talking of shifting the balance of power away from the "big clubs", back to the "300 million registered players in the world". Here is Platini, who talks of the need for more democracy in football, teaming up with the favoured candidate of the autocratic, outgoing Brazilian president, Mr Havelange.

Platini is still an immensely likeable man. He may have the combination of talent and international respect to do great good for the game. It seems to many in Europe, however, that he has been seduced by the power at the apex of a sport which has more member countries than the United Nations. To hear him fluently berating the French pilots' strike on radio this week – "the world will take us for a bunch of cretins" – was to know that Platini has made the transition from track suit to suit. He has become a football politician.

Asked by *France Football* this week if he wanted to be FIFA president one day, he replied: "You should never say over. In 15 years, who knows?"

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## Stress corner as Smiler falls vowel of Des' World Cup Party



CHRIS  
MAUME  
SPORT  
ON TV

ITV's HANDLING of previous major football tournaments has seen some remarkable lapses of judgement. Lee Hurst's disastrous contributions to *Euro '96* being the most recent, with Mike Yarwood's 1982 World Cup performances setting the standard. I'm not hoping for too much from Skinner and Baddiel this time round, either – their *Fantasy Football League* on the BBC had stopped being funny a couple of series before they realised it.

This week, ITV set out their stall for the next month with *Des O'Connor's World Cup Party*. It was perhaps the first British programme to subject football to a rigorous intellectual analysis. Professor O'Connor interviewed Anthony Clare and Oliver James about the psychological void left by the omission of Paul Gascoigne and interrogated the Archbishop of Canterbury on the England camp's spiritual arrangements. He questioned Salman Rushdie on Iran's chances, then Susan Sontag, Camille Paglia and Germaine Greer discussed

how the women's game can catch up with the men's. Michael Ignatieff sang an old Half Man Half Biscuit number backed by the Demos dancing troupe while Eric Cantona painted a huge picture in the studio. It was that kind of night. The climax was a football-themed slam poetry read-off won by Seamus Heaney, who only qualified for it because his grandmother was born in Japan.

It could have been like that, but wasn't, for some reason. However, though the heart sank at the thought of the permamaned crooner let loose on the World Cup, it could have been a lot worse. He kicked off with the comedian, Alan Davies, whose brief for his allotted 30-odd seconds or so was to rubbish other sports, particularly the Winter Olympics. He hates curling, for example – "You sweep it up! You threw it out there!"

Then there was the non-naïf Spice Girls, All Saints, whose cover version of Labelle's "Lady Marmalade" would

seem to suggest that they have run out of material already, MYLud, and the impressionist, Kevin Connolly, whose act, as I have observed before, consists of acceptable impressions subverted by scripts about as funny as a death in the family. And his Glenn Hoddle is still identical to his Trevor Brooking.

Warren Mitchell doing his Alf Garnett had potential, but he ruined it by giving the poor man's Oswald Mosley completely inappropriate views. Alf Garnett would never have condoned drugs in sport, or violence – "Take the violence out of boxing, no one would go, would they?" he said, with admittedly Garnettian logic.

There was a quick chat with Pavarotti, which had some amusement value due to his own vertiginously high opinion of what he used to be like as a footballer – "I scored many goals," he said. "I was very precise. In the final I scored one incredible goal." Then came Connolly's one decent impression, a magnificently abstract Kenny Dalglish, a Beckett

character in his stuttering inarticulacy and fractured syntax.

The coup for O'Connor was getting the Prime Minister on the show – although such is the World Cup's PR value it was probably impossible to keep him away. Cynics all over the country are probably even now suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after witnessing Smiler's nauseatingly demotic performance.

After a long story about Blair's mother-in-law and the Spanish prime minister, O'Connor asked him about the Humphrey the cat saga – which yielded a mildly amusing (if true) anecdote involving the Italian prime minister asking him "Eh, Tony, why you kill your cat?" It was at this point that the PM, by now relaxing into his man-of-the-people role, bizarrely began peppering his discourse with glottal stops, as if that was going to make him seem more like one of us. So "get" became "ge", "little" became "li", and "sort of" became "sor'of". I've got nothing against gl'ol stops; they just

sound daft coming from the posh bloke who runs the country. When combined with the dainty vowels, the effect was grating, embarrassing even. But then there's little more squirm-inducing than a politician trying to fit in. Even the vowels became more slack-jawed as the interview went on, all "yer do" and "yer know". I felt like punching him in the mouth. If England win the World Cup he promised to sing a duet with O'Connor. "It will be with mixed emotions that I watch it now," he said. That goes for all of us, I suspect.

The PM was only second on the hill, to Sir Reginald Dwight, who sang some old rubbish wearing an England shell suit: oo an astroturfed stage then submitted to some ferocious questioning. "If England win, will you come back and sing a duet with me?" O'Connor enquired. "If they win, I'll come back and sleep with you," the roly-poly knight of the realm replied. Now we've all got something to look forward to.

### Major weekend fixtures

#### TODAY

**Football**  
INTERNATIONAL MATCH  
Tunisia v Wales (2.30)  
(at El Manassah Stadium, Tunis)

**Rugby Union**  
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES  
Australia v England (11.0)  
(at Brisbane)

**Speedway**  
TOUR MATCHES: New South Wales v Scotland (8.30am) (at Sydney); Western Province (SA) v Ireland (8.30) (at Cape Town).

**Premier League Cup:** Barnwick v Sheffield (10); Edinburgh v Glasgow (10).

**Individual:** Bernie Klatt Memorial Trophy (12.0) (at Aldershot).  
**Other sports:**  
GOLF: National Car Rental English Open (Hertbury Manor, Wilt); Amateur Championship (Muirfield).  
TABLE TENNIS: National team finals (Bury St Edmunds).  
TENNIS: Surrey Grass Court Championships (Surrey).

**TOMORROW**  
**Rugby League**  
JUN SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v St Helens (2.30); London v Sheffield (3.0); Warrington v Bradford (3.55); Wigan v Salford (3.0). First Division: Doncaster v Widnes (3.0); Hull Kingston Rovers v Swinton (3.0); Leigh v Featherstone (3.0).

**Other sports:**  
GOLF: National Car Rental English Open (Hertbury Manor, Wilt).  
TABLE TENNIS: National team finals (Bury St Edmunds).  
TENNIS: Surrey Grass Court Championships (Surrey).

### Quotes of the week

● Yes, I was drunk. I got drunk quite quickly – I'd not had a drink in nine days. Paul Gascoigne on events the night before he was dropped from England's World Cup football squad.

● I went out on a limb for him. I tried so many times to make him see what he had to do, at the age of 31, to deal with the modern game. It is very sad, we'll miss him. Glenn Hoddle, England coach, on dropping Gascoigne.

● I completely lost it. I went mad, berserk. I lost my rag big time. I was shouting and swearing. Gascoigne explains how he took the news.

● Maybe it would not have mattered if he had not played in any of the first-round matches. But there would still have been time to get something out of him. Terry Venables, Hoddle's predecessor, on why he would have chosen Gascoigne.

● It was a strange day and a difficult one for all concerned. Hoddle on telling Gascoigne and five other players they were not going to the World Cup.

● On Sunday or Monday I suspect I might have used stronger language about what my views are on Glenn Hoddle and the English management. But I have to be restrained. Mel Steyn, Gascoigne's agent, who said the player had been treated like a Nazi war criminal.

هكذا من أكل



# Burton out to end his dual identity

Derby's Reggae Boy is confident of a striking show at the World Cup with Jamaica.  
Phil Shaw reports

With his compact frame, shaven head and penchant for precious goals, Deon Burton bears a certain resemblance to Ronaldo. But while the Brazilian's legend stretches from the Maracana to Milan, Jamaica's principal striker goes from anonymity every time he crosses the time zones between the West Indies and the East Midlands.

Last autumn, Burton helped the Caribbean cricketing stronghold to reach the World Cup finals for the first time amid celebrations that turned into a 48-hour carnival. Within days, he was playing before a few hundred diehards for Derby reserves against Nottingham Forest.

As a colleague with club and country, Darryl Powell has been ideally placed to observe Burton's double life. When I ask Burton about being voted Jamaican sports personality of the year (ahead of Courtney Walsh and Merlene Ottey) and whether he could walk through King's Cross unrecognised, it is all the rangy midfielder can do to stifle a laugh at my naivety.

So what would happen? "I'd be mobbed," replies Burton. "Or something like that." Would it be the same in the streets of Derby? "I don't think so."

The Pride Park duo are among seven "Reggae Boys" who were born and bred in England of Jamaican emigrants. Both previously played for Portsmouth, who, coincidentally, have Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson in the squad, but their journey to France 98 has been anything but the equivalent of a cross-channel hop.

Burton, 21, originally went to Jamaica with the Pompey pair when they were invited for trials by Jamaica's Brazilian coach, Renato Simoes. He planned to do nothing more arduous than lie on the beach, yet ended up joining a training session. Sooo he was spearheading a World Cup quest.

Remarkably, the Reading-born attacker did something even Ronaldo over-achieved. He scored in his first four qualifying matches, goals which earned a lucrative place in the finals for a country who did not even enter the competition in



Jamaica's Deon Burton is impressed by coach Rene Simoes' tactical acumen - "He notices everything, sees what's going on"

Photograph: Allsport

1986 because they could not afford the entry fee.

Powell, a 27-year-old south Londoner, was in the next wave of Simoes' recruits from the Premiership. He is used to answering charges that he and his ilk are depriving "genuine" Jamaicans of their big break.

"No one wants to take someone else's place. But in football, wherever you are in the world, that happens," he says. "Not all the players who got England qualified made it to the finals. All managers want to keep strengthening their squad." They insist there has been no ill-feeling. "All that the players want to know," Powell claims, "is that you want to play and that you're good enough."

Both men "feel" Jamaican rather than English. "Unquestionably," asserts Powell. "My parents were born and raised there. I've been back, and I have a strong feeling for the island."

For all that, there are inevitably differences between

the home-based players and the Anglos. On a superficial level there is the dressing-room banter. The locals tend to talk in dialect, or patois. Although Powell's father, friends and relations all converse that way, Burton admits they "speak a bit fast for the boys".

There is also a pronounced contrast in playing styles. The indigenous Jamaicans are closer to the South Americans than to Europeans, they argue; reggae with a samba beat. "They play at a slower tempo and their touch is very good," Powell says. "It's really weird: the first day I was with them I was wondering 'can they do it?' and I wasn't sure they could. But I couldn't get the ball off them. They're like Paulo Wanchope at Derby in that respect. They just flick the ball off with their chests. You think it's just hit them but it always goes to a team-mate."

Despite the poor standard of pitches on the island and facilities that are basic by British

standards, both believe that several Jamaicans could succeed in Europe. In particular, Burton nominates a 19-year-old winger, Ricardo Gardner, as a player who could cash in on interest from Germany, Spain and France.

"They've already got raw talent," he says. "What we've brought is that bit of discipline and professionalism. Combine the two and it's a good squad."

At Derby, and previously at Portsmouth, Burton and Powell have become accustomed to the blunt Yorkshire geniality of their manager Jim Smith. (Sample: "Someone told me Deon would be the star of the World Cup and we'd end up selling him for £15m. I'd said we'd take £7m now and forget about the other £8m.")

Simoes is a more cerebral character, forever devising strategies on his lap-top computer and seeking ways to foster the spiritual dimension within the camp.

"He does prayer meetings in

the dressing-room," Powell explains. "That may be unorthodox for England but not in Jamaica. The church plays a big part in the community there so for them to pray is perfectly normal."

"At Derby we sometimes talk to a psychologist. With Jamaica we talk to God, and that's how we get our strength. He also took the boys into the slums of Trenchtown to show them how the people that they're representing live."

Burton highlights Simoes' tactical acumen - "He notices everything, sees what's going on" - and is sure Jamaica are ready for Argentina, Japan and Croatia, their first World Cup opponents in Lens on 14 June.

Igor (Stimac), Derby's Croatian defender, came to spy on us in a friendly at Manchester City last month. They're a good side, but we knew that from Euro 96," he said.

Powell watched Argentina's win in Brazil on television. "They were awesome. I played

against (Ariel) Ortega against Sampdoria and he was fantastic too."

"I also saw them beat the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. The Irish lads did well, but Argentina could beat anyone on their day."

As for Japan it transpires that Chelsea's Jamaican defender, Frank Sinclair, is a J-League connoisseur. "He tells me they're technically gifted," says Powell. "It's going to be a hard, hard match."

There has been talk about Jamaica providing a respite from the win-at-all-costs mentality, the Barnsley of France 98.

"It's not going to be a party," Burton says. "But a chance for the players to show off their talents and let the world know what our country is all about."

Spoken like Ronaldo, although Burton's comparatively European appearance has earned him the nickname "German" in Jamaica. Another layer of identity for the man with the double life.

## Knudsen no longer the woolly hero

Faroe Isles

It may be two years away and a long way from the thoughts of the European participants at the World Cup finals this month, but the qualifying tournament for the 2000 European Championship began on Thursday.

Eight years ago, when the Faroes made their debut in the event, Jens Knudsen, their goalkeeper, became a hero far beyond the shores of the windswept North Atlantic islands. Wearing his white woolly hat, he kept a heroic clean sheet as the Faroes beat Austria 1-0 in a qualifier staged in Landskrona, Sweden, for the 1992 Championship played in the same country.

On Thursday, though, in Tallinn, Knudsen was a villain rather than a hero. With the Faroes already 1-0 down, following an early goal from Kristen Viikmae, to Estonia in the opening Euro 2000 qualifier, the goalkeeper dragged down Andrej Zelinski in the penalty area in the 41st minute. A red card, and then a penalty converted by Martin Reim, followed.

Knudsen's replacement in goal, Jakup Mikkelsen, was beaten three more times in the second half by Sergei Terekhov, Andres Oper and Urmas Kirs to give the Estonians a 5-0 victory.

The match at the Kadrioru stadium was played, Scottish fans might like to learn, in daylight. A year and a day after Thursday's fixture, the Scots are due to return to Tallinn - the scene of their famous 'match that never was' - for another European Championship qualifier.

Andorra

THE civil servants, firemen, insurance salesman, students and the other part-timers who make up Andorra's national team will be able to dine out on the events of Wednesday for weeks to come.



**FOUR DAYS  
UNTIL THE WORLD  
CUP FINALS BEGIN**



**AROUND  
THE WORLD  
BY  
RUPERT  
METCALF**

In the shabby surroundings of the Stade Municipal de St Ouen, the home of Red Star Paris, the Andorrans took on mighty Brazil in a France 98 warm-up match for the world champions.

Before the game the press were checking their history books for Brazil's record win (10-1 against Bolivia in 1949). A thrashing of similar proportions was predicted - but in the event the South Americans only managed a 3-0 victory with goals from Giovanni, Rivaldo and Cafu.

It was almost a triumph for little Andorra - even though Brazil seemed more concerned with establishing a new record of how many passes a team could string together without losing possession, rather than rattling goals past their opponents' defence.

The match, televised live back in Brazil, was arranged with only 10 days' notice. Justo Ruiz, one of Andorra's players, said: "When we heard it was a reality, we went absolutely crazy with delight. I never thought I would have the chance to play against the world champions. And it wasn't the whirlwind we expected."

Ruiz only had one big disappointment - most of the Brazilians refused to swap their shirts after the match. "I could have chased after one of them, but I have my pride as well," he said.

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# Robson's rebels left punch-drunk



After a terrible start to the 1986 finals, some senior England players made a stand against the management. Ken Jones reports

BRYAN ROBSON carried off, Ray Wilkins sent off, struggling to stay level at 0-0 against Morocco and defeated by Portugal in their opening game; no wonder that a revolt broke out in England's dressing-room. "We're always being told to think for ourselves, now somebody had better start thinking for us," one of the players said. Peter Reid was warning up to replace the stricken skipper but England's problems ran deeper than depletion. "It was a mess," Terry Fenwick recalled. "Between them, the manager and the coach [Bobby Robson and Don Howe] had decided to play with our full-backs pushed out, leaving me and Terry [Butcher, England's other centre-back] to cover the width of the field. I wasn't comfortable with the idea, less when we tried to make it work. Trying to deal with passes knocked into the spaces behind Kenny Sansom and Gary Stevens, we were all over the place."

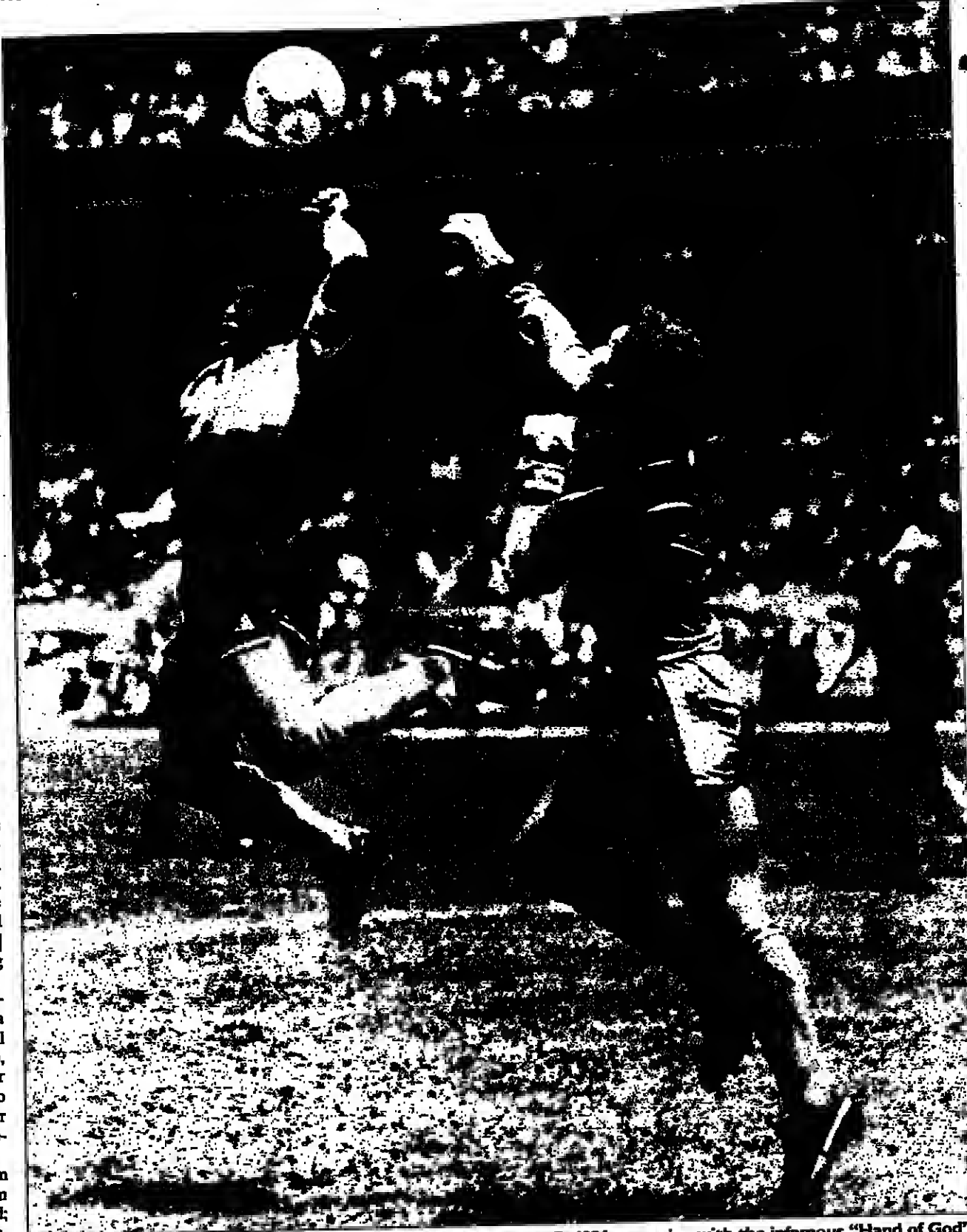
This and the difficulty arising from Glenn Hoddle's flawed positional sense. The most gifted English footballer of his generation, Hoddle had become a totem for the body of opinion that blamed England's comparatively poor World Cup record on a preference for industry over craftsmanship. "Brazil would make him an automatic choice," the complaint went. In fact, the denial of that distinction in England stemmed not from a deficiency in Hoddle's labour but his instinct. The space on a football field to be found without a great deal of effort is that between two players on the same team, as long as they can see each other. Hoddle didn't have an eye for it. He didn't hide from the ball but getting it to him was consistently a problem. This, more than any other factor, explains why Hoddle's international career didn't come

up fully to expectation. Nobody in football admired technical ability more than Robson's predecessor, Ron Greenwood, but he, too, had reservations about Hoddle, using him only twice (once as a substitute) in the 1982 World Cup finals. Although Hoddle was a fixture come the 1986 finals, England still weren't getting the full benefit from his deft touch and imaginative passing. Because Hoddle rarely showed up in his vision, Wilkins fell into his old habit of playing square which made England's movements predictable. It is not meant as a slight to Wilkins, but his 40th-minute expulsion in Monterrey and the introduction of Reid as a replacement for Robson served to bring Hoddle more into the game. Reid moved the ball to where he could see Hoddle and forced it at him. Fortunately, Morocco chose not to try to exploit numerical

advantage and England hung on for a goalless draw that caused a disturbance among their supporters, many by then anticipating that Robson's team would soon be out of the tournament. At a squad meeting later that day, Fenwick called upon Robson to think again about England's strategy. "I was so annoyed about things that I just stood up and spoke my mind," he recalled. "I told the manager that unless we got back to a system we were used to be might as well book a flight home. Thinking about it now, I was probably out of order but somebody had to say something. The room went very quiet. Players don't want to rock the boat but when I looked around Peter [Reid] and Alvin [Martin] were on their feet agreeing with me."

Reverting to a flat back-four, abandoning the idea of a winger (Chris Waddle) and a tall target man (Mark Hateley), Robson brought in Trevor Steven and Steve Hodge to play wide in midfield and Peter Beardsley to provide close support for Gary Lineker. England, the other results in their favour, would have been safe with a draw against Poland; instead they woke up and swagged into the next round, Lineker scoring a hat-trick, his firm ankles in front of goal a priceless asset when attacking low crosses. For the first time in 32 attempts, England had won by more than two goals. "It was different again," Fenwick said. "A lot more purpose and understanding."

An administrative cock-up left England with inadequate accommodation, not for the first time, but they were on song again when defeating Paraguay 3-0 in Mexico City. Two more for Lineker and Hoddle looking the part. England now expected to



Diego Maradona beats Peter Shilton to the ball and ends England's 1986 campaign with the infamous "Hand of God"

win matches even against Argentina, their opponents in the quarter-finals, Diego Maradona and all. "Of course, we spoke a lot about how best to try and keep Maradona away from our goal," Fenwick said. "We didn't think that man-marking him [West Germany gave the job to Lothar Matthäus in the final] because nobody in the squad was used to it and he was so powerfully elusive with that strength in his pelvis and legs. It had to be collective responsibility, trying to make sure that someone was close when

ever he got the ball." The closest player when Hodge sliced a clearance back towards his own goal was the England goalkeeper and captain, Peter Shilton. Shilton, over six feet tall, Maradona barely five feet five inches. No contest in the air but Shilton was slow coming out and took his eye off the ball. Maradona got a fist to it. "We couldn't believe the referee when he gave a goal," Fenwick said. "The linesman must have seen what happened, but he botched it. I followed the referee, so did

Shilton, but the team as a whole should have caused a lot more commotion [shades of Walter Winterbottom's remark when England stood unprotesting as Brazil conned them with a free-kick in the 1962 finals]. England were still fuming when Maradona scored one of the great World Cup goals just four minutes after the "Hand of God" incident. Gaining possession near the half-way line - "some of our players were still so upset that they weren't concentrating enough," Fenwick said - Maradona launched into

a long dribble that took him past three tackles, Fenwick's included, before dummieing Shilton. The introduction of John Barnes almost changed things. Going past two men, he laid on a goal for Lineker and almost another when a header from his cross was kept out on the goaline. Looking back, Fenwick is glad that a marvellous goal stood between the two teams. "It would be rotten to think that the little bastard cheated us out of it," he said.

## ENGLAND AT THE WORLD CUP 1986 Mexico

### GROUP F

England 0 Portugal 1  
England 0 Morocco 0  
England 3 Poland 0

### SECOND ROUND

England 3 Paraguay 0

### QUARTER-FINALS

Argentina 2 England 1  
Belgium 1 Spain 1  
(aet; Belgium won 5-4 on pens)

### Brazil 1 France 1

(aet; France won 4-3 on pens)  
W Germany 0 Mexico 0  
(aet; W Germany won 4-1 on pens)

### SEMI-FINALS

Argentina 2 Belgium 0  
W Germany 2 France 0

### FINAL

Argentina 3 W Germany 2

# England's gritty struggle ends in tears

The 1990 finals signalled the end of romanticism and the beginning of an age of players as public property. Terry Butcher tells Ken Jones how the pressure grew on Bobby Robson's squad both on and off the pitch



Terry Butcher (left) consoles Paul Gascoigne after the semi-final defeat by Germany. Photograph: Allsport

VETERAN World Cup observers, including one or two with a full attendance record since the Second World War, agreed that Italia 90 was the worst in their memory; no outstanding team, style at a premium, hardly an individual performance worth speaking about. "The game has lost its soul," José Saldanha, the journalist and former Brazil coach, said shortly before his death in Rome just a few days after Germany defeated Argentina in the final. Thinking modern developments a curse, especially the rapid spread of commercialism, Saldanha went sadly. "The last of the romantics," someone said of him and certainly there were precious few at work in the finals that summer.

Not that anybody in England's camp cared a boot about criticism as plans were laid down for a semi-final against West Germany. Only in the year of their sole triumph had England progressed so far. Twice almost out, first against Belgium, then against Cameroon, the great prize glittered in their imagination. "By then we felt capable of winning it," Terry Butcher recalled. Butcher, now a hotelier in Scotland [he also works with the youth squad at Raith Rovers] after ending his playing career on a high note with Rangers, will be at the finals in France working for BBC Radio. "It's going to bring back a lot of memories," he said.

The achievement of selection for three World Cup squads when making a total of 77 appearances for England gives Butcher a rare insight but it is Italia 90 that stands out most vividly. "I started out into the team," he said. "I didn't seem to fit into the sweeper system Bobby Robson had in mind and then I behaved stupidly at the end of a warm-up match in Tunisia, taking off my shirt and throwing it

'Cameroon tore us to pieces. We knew they had extremely talented players but we weren't prepared for their teamwork'

on the floor. It was reported as a protest but in fact I was angry with myself for playing so poorly." Robson was again under fire, England's sub-standard display in North Africa leading, typically, to a tabloid witch-hunt. "For Allah's sake go," was just one of the smart-aleck headlines. "Things had changed a lot during my time in the game,"

Butcher said. "With Ipswich and England I had got on well with sportswriters, feeling that the majority could be trusted. But by then there were people around who had been sent just to dig up scandal, watching our every move, making something out of nothing." It didn't help when a story broke alleging that a liaison officer, Isabella Ciaravola, had become involved with members of the England squad in Sardinia. "That put the lid on it," Butcher said. "We became wary and Des Walker refused to speak with the media under any circumstances. It's even worse now. The players know about me, know what I did in the game and in that sense I'm still one of them, but they aren't all that keen on giving an interview."

The doubts Butcher held eight years ago were removed when Robson included him for England's opening match against the Republic of Ireland in Cagliari. Drawn into the direct method that the Republic's charismatic manager, Jack Charlton, employed with considerable success, England never got going. "No matter what people said about Jack's policy the Irish could make life difficult," Butcher added. Gary Lineker's goal after only nine minutes was the start of England's comeback. "For Allah's sake go," was just one of the smart-aleck headlines. "Things had changed a lot during my time in the game,"

## ENGLAND AT THE WORLD CUP 1990 Italy

### GROUP F

England 1 Rep of Ireland 1  
England 0 Netherlands 0  
England 1 Egypt 0

### SECOND ROUND

England 1 Belgium 0 (aet)

### QUARTER-FINALS

England 3 Cameroon 2 (aet)  
Germany 1 Czechoslovakia 0  
Argentina 0 Yugoslavia 0  
(aet; Argentina won 3-2 on pens)  
Italy 1 Rep of Ireland 0

### SEMI-FINALS

England 1 Germany 1  
(aet; Germany won 4-3 on pens)  
Argentina 1 Italy 1  
(aet; Argentina won 4-3 on pens)

### THIRD PLACE FINAL

Italy 2 England 1

### FINAL

Germany 1 Argentina 0

Never the most decisive of managers, Robson altered his strategy for the next match against the Netherlands, deploying the swift Walker as cover for two central markers. "The Dutch had some terrific players - Van Basten, Gullit, Rijkaard, Koeman - but they didn't seem half the team that won the European championship a couple of years earlier," Butcher said. "Not that we had much to shout about." Mostly the form of Paul Gascoigne, his powerful surges from midfield giving the Netherlands their most worrying moments.

Top of their group after defeating Egypt 1-0, England were extremely fortunate to carry their challenge past Belgium. "In truth they deserved to beat us," Butcher said, "but that's football and David Platt made

his name with the volley that won it." More good fortune to come. "I have to admit it," Butcher said. "Cameroon tore us to pieces. We knew they had some extremely talented players but weren't prepared for their teamwork and effort. We were down 2-1 with about 15 minutes to go when the manager replaced me with Trevor Steven. Sitting on the touchline I couldn't see us scoring until Gary [Lineker] panicked them into giving away a penalty. Another in extra-time put us through but my goodness it was close."

It all ended with penalties and tears. "We were transformed against Germany, hitting our best form but not getting that bit of luck all teams need," Butcher said. "The only genius Germany showed was from the

penalty spot. The pressure on the takers is enormous," Butcher said. "Walking up to the ball knowing that millions are watching. You can practice every day, put the ball exactly where you want it time after time and still make a mess of the responsibility. Nothing much disturbs Stuart Pearce on the field and yet he couldn't drive his kick home. Chris Waddle strikes a great ball, but he failed, too."

Butcher remembers Pearce and Waddle being inconsolable, his heart going out to them. And the Germans so clinical. "Just like they were again when it came to penalties in Euro 96," he said. "All of them ice cool." Outside the stadium afterwards Germany's hus drew alongside England's. "We could see hear their players singing and shouting," Butcher said. "It's a sound he will always remember."

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# Little fear that Owen will go partying

England's teenage striker takes a sober view of his World Cup responsibilities. Mike Rowbottom reports

IT WAS unfortunate for Michael Owen that his scheduled press conference yesterday should have taken place on a day when the papers were full of the night-clubbing indiscretions of his England colleague, Teddy Sheringham.

Or perhaps it was fortunate. Because the prodigiously talented Liverpool forward could hardly have come out better from the perceived comparison.

While the 32-year-old Sheringham chose to spend his last spare days before the World Cup finals visiting Algarve night spots, the 18-year-old went back to his family home in Chester, which he left yesterday morning, to rejoin the England party - appearing en route at an event marking his new six-year deal with Umbro.

Owen, old beyond his years off the pitch as well as on it, remained guarded in his comments about the behaviour of Sheringham and Paul Gascoigne, whose lack of discipline was a contributory factor in his being dropped from the final World Cup squad.

"I think any professional has got responsibilities and they do what they feel is right, so it's down to them," he said, without being drawn into any particular cases.

Soon after Owen came into



England's Michael Owen is high in the sky with the Millennium Dome construction behind him before he joins up with the England squad

Photograph: Allsport

the England reckoning Glenn Hoddle appeared to sound a warning oote to him when he expressed the hope that the youngster would ensure his lifestyle was an appropriate one. It was a reference which Owen felt moved to clarify with the England coach, who told him that it was not directed personally. "Glenn said he was talking about a whole host of young lads in my age group," Owen said. "People like Rio Ferdinand

and Emile Heskey. He said that oo one had a problem, but that there were so many pitfalls in the game now that we had to be careful.

"Footballers are more in the limelight now, and you've got to be more professional off the pitch nowadays than you had to. So that has changed in the game. It's unfortunate that some players don't get time to themselves without being mobbed. I would prefer to be

able to go out and do the things oormal 18-year-olds do, but it goes with the job. And I wouldn't change my life for anything else. I'm sure there are lots of 18-year-olds who would willingly change places with me."

Owen's mode of transport to yesterday's appearance mirrored his sudden arrival on the international football scene - he arrived from the skies in a helicopter which eventually whirled

him away again into the England fold.

Owen, who used to box as a schoolboy and has an eight handicap as a golfer, comes from a large sporting family. He will be watched in France by his mother, his youngest sister and his father, Terry, a former Everton forward whom he describes as the major influence in his career.

Father and son were regulars at Anfield, where Michael

would concentrate on watching the Liverpool forwards whom he was eventually to join - Ian Rush and Robbie Fowler.

He acknowledged that a season which has already seen him become England's youngest-ever goalscorer has been close to bewildering. "It all happened so quickly," he said. "To achieve the things I have so far has been great. I wasn't even expecting to play many games for Liverpool at the start of the

season. To think that I'm going to the World Cup and I got a chance of playing in another couple is a tremendous feeling. I would have settled for going to one when I was a youngster."

Asked if he felt England could win, he replied with conviction: "Yes, I believe so. I think every other player in the camp believes so. There is oo reason why we shouldn't, so we will go out there and not settle for anything less than first place."

## Savage returns for test against Tunisia

ROBBIE SAVAGE seems certain to be in the Wales side for their match with England's first World Cup opponents Tunisia today.

The Leicester midfielder was ruled out of the 3-0 win in Malta on Wednesday - a game played in front of just 3,000 fans on the holiday island. But the Tunisian tussle will be very different. The game will be Tunisia's last match before they head for France and their game in Marseilles with England.

There will be 70,000 at the ground wanting to give their team a riotous send off and Gould said: "Tunisia will want to go to France oo the back of victory, but for us it is important too. It's a great prestige match. They're England's first opponents in France and it would do us the world of good to get a good result against them."

Savage was left out in Malta because of a worrying groin injury and was forced to spend much of his time at the team hotel. Gould blooded a string of youngsters against the Maltese but will want a player of Savage's experience in his midfield.

Tunisia have looked impressive despite going down 2-1 to Austria and 3-2 to Chile in their previous two friendlies in France. The Africans will fly after the game to their French base to complete their preparations to play England.

Savage said: "The injury is OK oow and it's fair to say that I could oot have managed two games in four days."

Gould added: "We decided to keep him back for the big ooe. If he'd played against Malta, it's unlikely he would have made the Tunisia game."

"I've still to decide how many of the kids will play in this ooe. There's a few injuries to sort out and I'll also wait to see whether Steve Jenkins has got over an ankle injury he suffered while training in Malta."

The chances are that Craig Bellamy, who made such a fine impressioo on his first full match in Malta, will be retained in midfield, with Savage alongside him. However, Gould seems less likely to retain the 17-year-old Ryan Green against Tunisia's World Cup attackers.

Wales (v Tunisia, El Mersah Stadium, Tunis, today: Jones (Goalkeeper) or Marriott (Wendham), Ready (CPI), Green (Wolves), Coleman (Fulham), Savage (Leicester), Bellamy (Norwich), Speed (Newcastle), Pemberton (Sheff Wed), Trollope (Fulham), Harrison (West Ham), Saunders (Sheff Utd).

## Cameroon in ticket scandal Romanians change venue

THE president of the football association in Cameroon, Vincent Onana, is being investigated by judicial authorities over the alleged sale in Europe of World Cup tickets allocated for the country's fans. Cameroon football officials announced yesterday.

It was confirmed that Onana was stopped by police from travelling to France on Wednesday night for the World Cup finals starting on Wednesday. The sports minister, Joseph Owona, confirmed Onana was under investigation but did oot comment on the police action on Wednesday. "A judicial investigation has been opened against Vincent Onana," the minister told state television on Thursday night.

Fans intending to travel to France to support the "Indomitable Lions" say they are unable to get tickets meant for them and the Channel Four programme *Dispatches* has alleged that tickets for Cameroon fans were on sale in London.

Onana had been stopped from flying to France on Wednesday because of the ticket probe, although they said his passport had not been impounded. The official Cameroon delegation, including the sports minister, was scheduled to travel to France last night.

Meanwhile, yesterday, a Paris court rejected a demand to redistribute World Cup tickets that a group of 32 European MPs contended were unfairly allocated in favour of French fans. The court said it

sports deny any responsibility in the illegal sale of tickets and calls on the organisations concerned to explain this affair," he said.

Sources at the immigration police confirmed that Onana had been stopped from flying to France on Wednesday because of the ticket probe, although they said his passport had not been impounded. The official Cameroon delegation, including the sports minister, was scheduled to travel to France last night.

Meanwhile, yesterday, a Paris court rejected a demand to redistribute World Cup tickets that a group of 32 European MPs contended were unfairly allocated in favour of French fans. The court said it

could oot rule in the case. "It was thrown out on a technical grounds. The court has not actually dealt with the matter as such," said Phillip Jenkinson, attorney for the MPs, who argued that World Cup ticket sales had been in contravention of European law by favouring French buyers.

Also yesterday, tests carried out by the French government suggested that World Cup tickets, supposedly unforgeable, can be copied in less than four hours with easily obtainable technology and materials. A senior Freoch official said that special inks, and even the holograms used on the tickets, could be bought oo the open market and perfect forgeries had been produced.

ROMANIA'S Football Federation has changed the venue of today's World Cup warm-up match against Moldova amid acrimony between the national team's fans and players.

"The FRF has decided to move Romania's last friendly against Moldova because of disputes between the players and Bucharest's spectators," the FRF general secretary, Adalbert Kassay, said yesterday. Kassay said the kick-off for Romania's last friendly before the World Cup would also be brought forward by two hours as the stadium in Poliesti, 60 kms north of Bucharest, has no floodlights.

The move will please Romania's players who have complained vigorously about the fans' taunts in Bucharest.

Chelsea's Dan Petrescu said Romania should consider playing their matches further away from the fans who barracked the team during Wednesday's friendly against Paraguay.

"Maybe we should not play in Romania anymore," he said. "Maybe we should play in Bulgaria."

Spain's coach Javier Clemente is unhappy with his World Cup training ground after inspecting it and finding holes as well as goals.

The coach inspected the pitch at Chantilly, to the oorth of Paris, oo Thursday night immediately after the Spanish squad flew into Charles De Gaulle airport for the World Cup.

Spanish reporters said officials had tried to find an

alternative ground in the area but the other main ooe at nearby Senlis had already been allocated to the Italian squad.

Mario Zagallo, Brazil's coach, insisted yesterday that there had beeo oo fall-out with his volatile striker Edmundo. Edmundo was reported to be involved in a dressing room argument following Sunday's friendly against Athletic Bilbao after claiming that he had oot beeo passed the ball.

In Argentina, a judge investigating the case of Diego Maradona allegedly shooting four reporters with an air rifle granted the former Argentina captain permission on Thursday to leave his country for 15 days to go to watch his country in the World Cup finals in France.

tears

ITALY

ALS  
Germany  
Italy  
France  
Netherlands  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tunisia  
Wales  
Yugoslavia

FACE FINAL

Argentina



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## SPORT

Saturday 6 June 1998

**First Test:** South Africa bowlers fight back after a poor first day but the home side's batsmen manage to continue their good work

# Ramprakash keeps England on track

By Derek Pringle  
at Edgbaston

ALEC STEWART will be thankful that his first two days as England captain were not reversed as both South Africa and the Edgbaston pitch gave a truer reflection of their character. With more than 450 runs on the board, England remain firm favourites, though the visitor's retort will have at least brought a glimmer of hope, where none had any right to exist.

South Africa leave little to chance and their coach, Bob Woolmer, would have drummed into his bowlers the need to bowl a fuller length. Fortunately for their captain, they obliged, and England found runs far harder to come by than they had only 24 hours earlier.

Even so, with England re-summing on 249-1, any pressure would have been firmly on the South Africans. By their own unrelenting standards, they'd had a bad first day and amends had to be made sooner rather than later.

The first wicket came before most spectators had settled in their seats. With 103 runs burning a hole in his back pocket, Michael Atherton was perhaps destined to be extravagant.

Whatever his state of mind, his attempt to force Allan Donald off the fourth ball of the second over was ill-judged, the extra bounce ensuring that the edge ended in Mark Boucher's gloves.

It was the kind of shot Atherton had eschewed for most of the previous day and its boldness allowed South Africa to achieve in five minutes what had taken them almost four and a half hours to do on Thursday - take a wicket.

The early breakthrough, while clearly boosting South Africa's bowlers, did not herald a collapse. Coming to the wicket a place lower than had been planned, Nasser Hussain immediately announced himself with a sumptuous cover-driven four. Other boundaries followed, including a majestic pull off the fiery Shaun Pollock, who having sensed a quickening in the pace of the pitch, couldn't resist trying one half way down.

After an initial burst from his two frontmen, the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronje, brought on his spinner, Paul Adams, from the City End, alternating his three main pacemen from the other. It was, give or take a few overs from Jacques Kallis, the pattern for most of the day, and one that, until the post-tea session, threatened to get South Africa back into the game.

Never at his strongest against spin, Stewart was slowed by the unorthodox consistency of Adam's left-arm spin. By his normally fluent standards, England's captain was reduced to a crawl and having carefully made his way to 49, he cautiously played out a maiden to Adams only to fall to a loose drive at the other end.

Although power tends to invest more significance in a person's actions, it was just the kind of shot the old Stewart might have been guilty of. Any claims, however, that the captaincy is affecting his batting are a tad premature.

Four balls later, Hussain followed his skipper back into the pavilion, the victim of a cruel jape by Dame Fortune. Playing



Nasser Hussain curses his luck after falling to an unplayable ball off the bowling of the South African spinner Paul Adams at Edgbaston yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Edgbaston scoreboard

Second day  
South Africa won toss

ENGLAND - First innings

(Overnight: 249 for 1)

M A Atherton c Boucher

b Donald.....103

\*A J Stewart c Cullinan

b Klesener.....49

N Hussain lbw b Adams.....35

G P Thorpe b Pollock.....30

M R Ramprakash b Donald.....49

M A Ealham b Adams.....5

D G Cork not out.....34

R D B Croft not out.....2

Extras (b17, lb28, wd, rbt2).....53

Total (for 7, 171 overs).....417

Fall: 1-79, 2-249, 3-308, 4-309,

5-328, 6-356, 7-411

To bat: D Gough, A R C Fraser,

SOUTH AFRICA: G F J Liebenberg,

G Kirsten, J H Kallis, O J Cul-

livan, \*W J Crowe, J N Rhodes, S

M Pollock, M V Boucher, D Kuse-

ner, P R Adams, A A Donald.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and

R Tiffin.

calmly back to Adams, Hussain was undone by a grubber that barely bounced six inches above the ground, which even at Adam's reduced pace, is lethal. It was reminiscent of his dismissal in the third Test in Trinidad, when Carl Hooper produced something equally unplayable and Hussain must be wondering what he has done to upset those who sit in judgement

of these things in the cricketing Valhalla.

The double strike, which came while the score was on 309, left England bereft of momentum. The loss, too, of Graham Thorpe, England's recent player of the year, soon after lunch, did not help matters as only 61 runs were scored in the second session. According to the Speedster, Thorpe was

bowled by the quickest ball of the Test, a 87 mph swinger from Pollock that the left-hander hit across.

England's caution, though perhaps overdue, illustrated that they still do not entirely trust this potentially awkward pitch. The way in which Mark Ramprakash wore his ascetic's hat, rather than the jaunty one he'd been seen in recently for

Middlesex, betrayed England's desire to bat only once.

Nevertheless, it was another assured display from the Middlesex captain and he was a model of calm authority. Since his coming of age in the West Indies, Ramprakash is unafraid to play the ball on its merits. If that means sitting tight for a few overs, or walloping a half-volley for four, so be it.

After all, that is what most Test cricket is about.

Once Mark Ealham, who spent 53 minutes scoring just five runs, had become Adam's third victim, Ramprakash decided to accelerate. In partnership with Dominic Cork, who struck the ball sweetly, the pair added 55 in 89 minutes before Donald, returning with the third new ball, removed

Ramprakash with his first delivery.

After a brief stoppage for rain, Cork followed, well caught by Pollock at third man as he slashed uppishly at Donald. In falling light, Donald proved more a handful than he had done at any stage of the innings, and Robert Croft driving loosely, became the bowlers fourth victim after he edged behind.

## TODAY

Fifteen pages of sport start on page 14

## ON MONDAY

Special 24-page World Cup supplement

## Sheringham meets Hoddle to discuss nightclub reports

### Football

By Mark Pearson and Alan Nixon

THE ENGLAND coach, Glenn Hoddle, had talks with Teddy Sheringham last night following revelations that the striker was seen partying in a nightclub at 6.45am just a week before the start of the World Cup.

Hoddle plans to see the Manchester United man again today before deciding what action, if any, to take. The Football Association's director of public affairs, David Davies said: "Glenn Hoddle has spoken to Teddy Sheringham now that England's World Cup squad is together again. He is establishing all the facts of the situation that was reported in some of today's newspapers."

The Southampton manager, Dave Jones, has made a £5m bid for the Crystal Palace striker Matt Jansen. Jones put in his improved offer yesterday for the prospect who made an explosive start to his Premier League career when he joined Palace. The Saints, armed with the £7.25m from the sale of Kevin Davies to Blackburn, had an initial £3.5m bid rejected last week.

Mark Goldberg has completed his takeover of Crystal Palace and takes over as club chairman with immediate effect. Terry Venables will take over as head coach. The agreement was finally concluded in the early hours of yesterday morning

and sees the Bromley-based Goldberg purchase the club for £22m with a further option on the Selhurst Park stadium freehold over a five-year period.

Alan Thompson signed for Aston Villa in a £4.8m deal last night despite a desperate late bid from Blackburn Rovers. Thompson was on his way to Villa Park yesterday when Rovers cabled their rival offer and he shook hands on a contract without talking to Bolton's big-spending neighbours.

The Blackburn move was a piece of bizarre timing as they knew the bidding had started on Thompson a couple of weeks ago but made no firm approach until it was too late.

Kenny Dalglish hopes to tie up Wayne Quinn as his latest Newcastle United signing in a £2m deal over the weekend. The Sheffield United prospect, capped by both England Under-21s and at B level, is close to agreeing terms on Tyneside after a flying visit yesterday.

Quinn wants to move to the Premier League after the disappointments of two promotion failures at Bramall Lane. Dalglish was impressed last season with the versatile Quinn, who can play left back or left wing, and beat several clubs to his signature. Sheffield United have agreed to sell ahead of announcing a new manager. The funds will be given to the next man in charge.

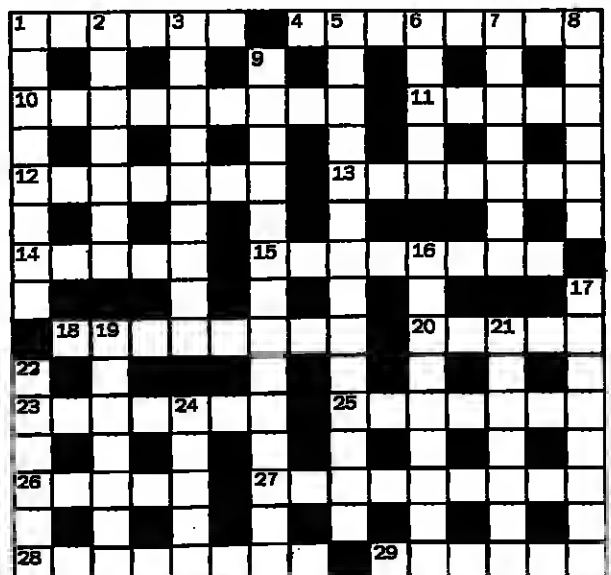
## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3630, Saturday 6 June

By Spurious

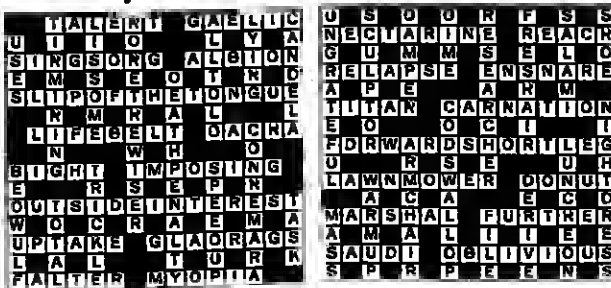
### ACROSS

### DOWN



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



- 1 Repulsive old Duke's accepting a promissory note (6)
- 4 On good terms, invited into Director-General's house (8)
- 10 Coast where, perhaps, "atmosphere" pervades? (9)
- 11 Education's to be cut at both ends - no new money? (5)
- 12 Loud disturbance in house primarily made by lawless youth (7)
- 13 A straggling aircraftman's about to use for break in line (7)
- 14 Lines from air composed about 501 (5)
- 15 "N" - name one's assigned to translator of Genesis (3)
- 18 Pines (tropical) given little chance of success? (4, 4)
- 20 Extract for which Earl expected to hold copyright (5)
- 23 Fashionable people about to take on him contract? (2-5)
- 25 Idiot, parked in drive almost causing deadlock (7)
- 26 Round segment featured in abstract painting (2,3)
- 27 Wild flower lies entangled with weeds (9)
- 28 Go too far when using manual control? (8)
- 29 Thrifty German woman dropping article when approached by girl (6)
- 1 Fresh food mostly perishing on the oil rigs? (8)
- 2 Of very low degree? (3-4)
- 3 Inert, albeit reluctant? (9)
- 5 Crazy jazz fans embracing beat and actions (7,7)
- 6 Deposit covering masonry? (5)
- 7 Dulcinea mostly declines to be put in a group (7)
- 8 Cake consumed in France long ago that requires shortening (6)
- 9 Alsatian with the same grandparents as her pastor (6,8)
- 16 Bowing strength needed to defeat opposition? (9)
- 17 Special levers are mostly required for turning things around (8)
- 19 Flat fare available throughout North Britain (7)
- 21 Psychiatric Social Worker, one bitten by rampant wildbeest, shows some improvement (7)
- 22 Keen on absorbing Old Testament in its entirety (2,4)
- 24 Removing piano from club appears extreme (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P O Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BH. Please use the box number and postcode to give your own postcode. Last week's winners: R Palmer, Colchester; R Miller, Scarborough; E Holman, Basingstoke; M Nicholson, Farnham; F Smith, Leeds.

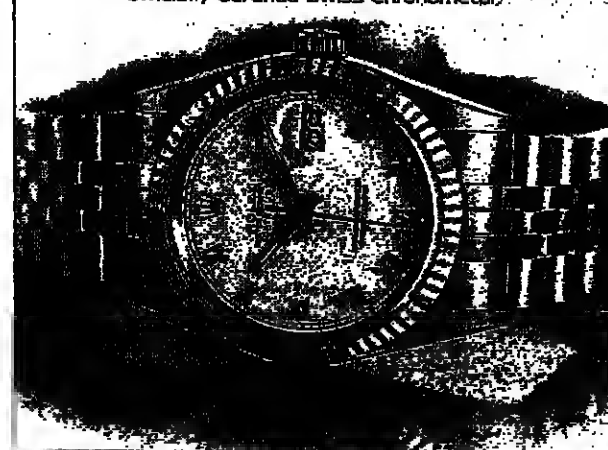
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# YOUR MONEY

Personal finance, motoring and property

Saturday 6 June 1998

## Danger up ahead for trackers?

The Government plans to make index-tracker funds central to its new savings plans. But, as Paul Slade discovers, some experts fear that a stock market dominated by trackers could give all investors a bumpy ride

Index-tracking trusts have proved enormously popular with investors, and can point to an impressive track record over the past few years.

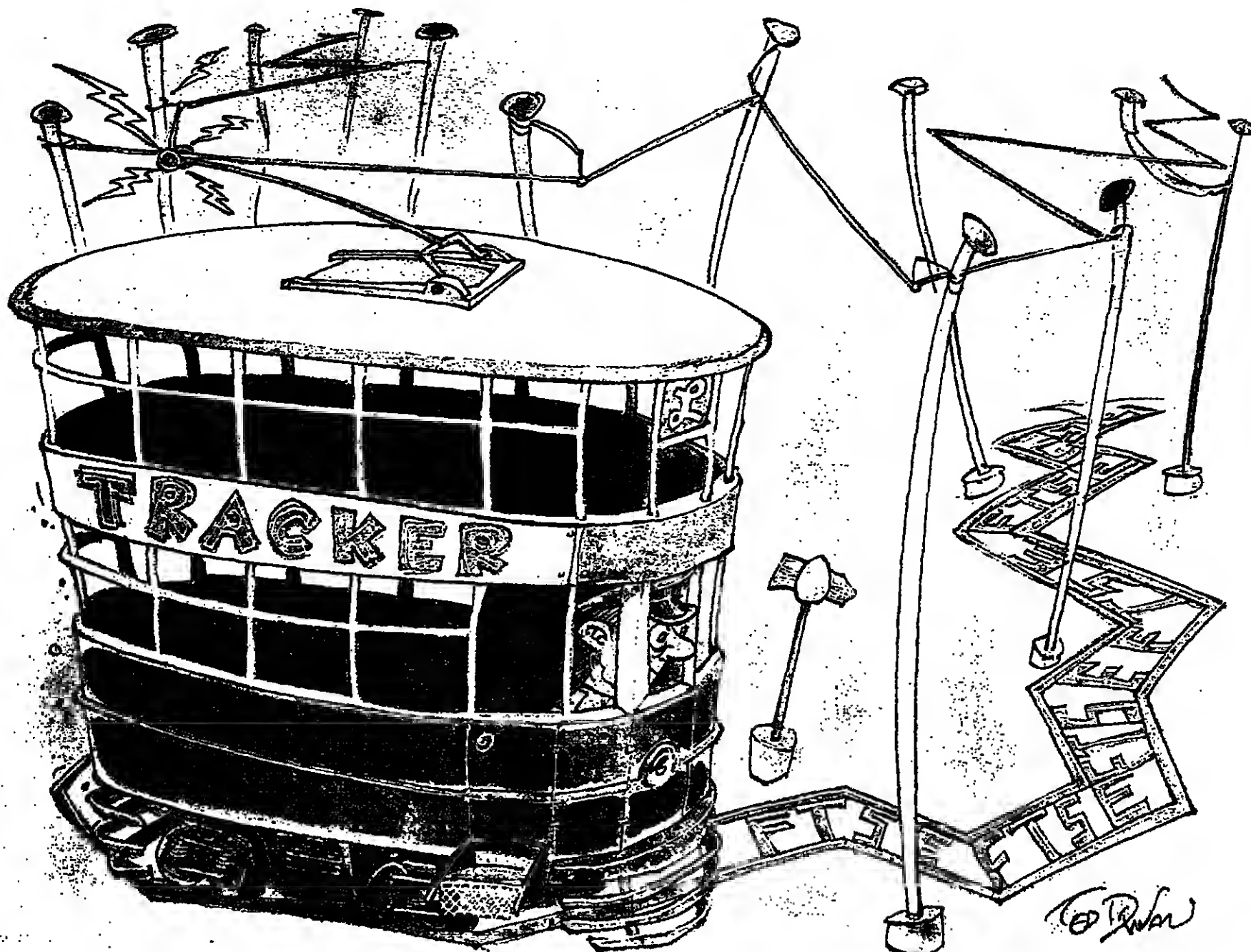
Small savers like the simplicity and low charges of unit trusts which – rather than relying on a fund manager's judgement – merely select stocks to duplicate the performance of their chosen stock-market index.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, evidently agrees. She has suggested that only Individual Savings Accounts based on an index-tracker trust should qualify for the Government's proposed CAT (Charges/Access/Terms) mark of approval. Leaks suggest the proposed stakeholder pension will be built on index-trackers, too.

However, Roger Carnick, deputy chairman at Perpetual, a leading fund management group, says: "If you get two mainstream investments [stakeholder pensions and ISAs] going into the stock market through index-tracking funds, it is clearly going to represent the huge majority of private investment in shares."

But there is a paradox here. Index-trackers, by definition,

aim to duplicate the performance of a much wider market which is driven by actively managed funds. Scenarios argue that, if too much money goes into trackers, they will artificially inflate the value of the biggest companies' shares and make the whole market more volatile.



### WHICH INDEX TO CHOOSE?

Savers must not only choose between a tracker fund and an actively managed one, but also think which stock-market index they want to track.

Most trackers use either the FT-SE 100, which lists the UK's 100 biggest companies, or the All-share, which lists 855 shares – including some much smaller ones. Many fund managers believe that, after a long period of under-performance, smaller companies now offer the best value.

As the table left shows, the UK's 10 biggest trackers have a total of £3.9bn under management. Of this total, £2.4bn (59.4 per cent) goes into the All-share, and the remainder into the FT-SE 100.

Some trackers use full replication, which means they buy a stake in every company. Others take a smaller sample, selected to represent the whole index.

Virgin Direct's Martin Campbell says: "It's important to have a spread across smaller companies as well, and that's why we think full replication of the All-share index is what the Government should set out as a CAT mark standard."

Matthew Orr, a partner at stockbrokers Killik & Co, says: "The ultimate extension of the tracker argument is that everybody goes in a tracker. You end up with one judgmental investor left, and he can push the market whichever way he wants, because he's the only one with a view. It's going to put the power of market movement into a diminishing number of hands, which could lead to volatility."

Amanda Davidsoo, a partner at London-based independent financial advisers Holden Meehan, believes some of the violent swings in the Dow Jones share index are partly caused by the longer-established use of trackers in the American stock market.

She says: "There is certainly a link between how much is kept in trackers in the States and the volatility in that market. The US really is quite volatile considering that it's an established market, and that's because you've got too much in trackers there."

Richard Wiscoat, director at Fidelity Investments European,

adds: "The sheer weight of money ploughing into the index funds pushes up stocks, and throws economic fundamentals out of the window. It can carry on for a while, but not forever."

Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director at Barclays Stockbrokers, suggests the FT-SE's growth is already being driven partly by increased demand for the limited number of shares available in the biggest companies – a trend which more tracker investment would magnify.

He says: "What trackers end up doing is skewing all the money towards a limited supply of stock. That will continue to happen, but it doesn't mean the FT-SE will defy gravity."

But Martin Campbell, Virgin Direct product development manager, whose company has attracted more than £1.5bn into index-tracking funds since its launch in 1995, rejects these fears. He says less than 1 per cent of money in the FT-SE All-share index is in tracker funds today.

Mr Campbell says: "Even if

everybody who takes out an ISA tracks the index and everyone who takes out a stakeholder pension tracks the index, it may well be that it never even has as much influence, let alone becomes any kind of dominating thing."

Even if there is a flood of cash into trackers, Ian Millward of independent PEP advisers Chase de Vere believes the very best actively managed funds will better their performance.

He says: "As soon as everyone goes into trackers, there's no research done, and the market becomes hugely inefficient. It's then that there are tremendous opportunities for active fund managers to outperform. The whole idea that trackers can be the solution is completely flawed before it starts."

"Once all the money goes into trackers, all of a sudden active's the place to be."

Mr Campbell has an answer for this, too. "If you put all the active guys in a huge pot, and look at what the net impact is, they are practically tracking the market anyway," he says.

### Who's tracking whom - the ten biggest tracker funds

Trust	Index	Size	lyr rank
Virgin UK Index	All-share	£1,250m	12
L&G UK Index	FTSE 100	£1,005m	15
Gartmore UK Index	All-share	£561m	18
NU UK Index	All-share	£313m	51
HSBC UK Index	All share	£251m	17
Lloyds Bank	FTSE 100	£150m	59
Equitable UK Index	FTSE 100	£131m	23
Barclays	FTSE 100	£120m	50
Fidelity M.Builder Index	FTSE 100	£111m	6
Direct Line	FTSE 100	£105m	2

\* Shows position in UK growth and income sector, which also controls actively managed funds. Source: Moneyfacts/Investment

### INDEX

#### Compelling pensions

The Government is considering compelling all of the country's self-employed to pay into a second pension as part of its wholesale review of pension policy. It emerged this week. Responding to a report by the Independent Pensions Provision Group (IPPG), the DSS said it was looking at bringing the UK's 3.25 million self-employed into a revamped system of compulsory second pensions.

In its report, also published yesterday, the IPPG said more and more pensioners would be forced to rely on income support if the Government left the existing pension system unchanged. The report added that it did not see how pensioners' income could be improved unless the state pension's indexation to inflation is replaced by income.

#### Lenders calm borrowing fears

More stock-market jitters this week, as the Bank of England raised base rates by a further 0.25 point to 7.5 per cent. However, fears that mortgage interest rates might go up immediately were calmed by most lenders, who said they would not be taking immediate action. Bradford & Bingley added that while it would be increasing savings rates by a minimum of 0.25 per cent from next week, it guaranteed not to raise home loan rates until August at least.

#### Ethics in retirement

Retirement planning is difficult at the best of times, but even more so when ethical investment considerations are uppermost in people's minds. Iain Morse looks at the options available to people who want their pension savings to reflect their social consciences. Page 5.

### Thought for the day

We won't pour out advice until we know you.

### UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/THE TESCO PENSION

## Can Tesco's pensions match up to its veg?

Andrew Verity checks out if the supermarket chain can offer savers that little bit more

Tesco became this week the latest in a long list of retailers urging its customers to save for a pension at its stores. Like Virgin or Marks & Spencer, it is selling a pension direct to its customers – no sales person, no commission – and no independent advice.

So far, Tesco has led the rest of the retail industry in personal finance. Its savings account prompted a copycat at Sainsbury; other supermarkets have imitated its loyalty card scheme; it offers home insurance, loans and a visa card.

But does the pension fit the new Tesco ethos of quality and value for money? Or is it closer to the philosophy of Tesco's founder, Jack Cohen, who famously urged his managers to pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap?

**The product:** The Tesco Pension, from Tesco Personal Finance Life (currently being tested in 20 stores).

**The deal:** Save at least £1 a day, or £30 a month, with Tesco. The savings carry the usual tax benefits. A basic-rate taxpayer would see £100 go into the pension for every £77 saved. Some of the interest on the fund is also tax-free. Payouts are taxed – though up to 25 per cent of a fund can be paid out as a tax-free lump sum. Benefits can be drawn from the age of 50.

A Tesco investor can pick from five funds run by Tesco's partner in personal finance,

Scottish Widows. The UK Growth fund mimics the performance of the FT AllShare Index. The Balanced Growth Fund mimics the investments of other balanced growth funds; it invests roughly 70 per cent in UK shares and the rest in gilts and overseas stocks. The International Growth Fund tracks the overseas investments of the average pension fund manager. The Fixed Interest Fund follows the performance of fixed-interest stocks such as government bonds. The Cash Fund invests in short-term securities – such as Treasury bills. **Plus points:** The charges look low and the product is simple. Unlike its rival pension at Marks & Spencer, there is no monthly plan fee. The minimum saving of £30 a month is lower than rivals such as Eagle Star, Virgin or even Legal & General's direct pension.

All Tesco charges is a 4 per cent payment upfront and an ongoing annual fee of 1 per cent of the fund.

Tesco has eliminated penalties for savers who are forced to stop contributing in the early years. This is a blessing in comparison to most personal pensions, where savers get poor value if they stop early. That creates a particularly nasty dilemma if a policyholder is offered a good employer's scheme: policyholders are damned if they do and damned if they don't. But there are many other products that are also penalty-free.

The choice of investments is in stark contrast to rivals such as Virgin: Mr Branson only offers a tracker or a corporate bond fund.

**Drawbacks and risks:** You can get a cheaper product at an up-market rival. Flemings, the as-

set manager and investment bank, also offers a pension with no monthly plan fee and no penalties. But its annual fee is half of Tesco's – 0.5 per cent of the fund.

One per cent may not sound much. But a saver who put £100 a month in the plan over 25 years (assuming interest of 9 per cent a year) would in the end be paying more than £850 a year through this 1 per cent. With Flemings the fee would be half as much.

This matters little if Scottish Widows can produce amazing investment performance for Tesco savers. But while it has a reasonable investment record, savers cannot know it will surpass its rivals over such a long period of time.

**Verdict:** Like Tesco fruit & veg, it's good but not the best, cheap but not the cheapest. Marks out of five: Three.

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## Link pensions to wages not prices

Back in March last year, shortly before the general election, the Conservative government tried to stave off defeat by announcing that future state pension provision should be privatised.

Not surprisingly, the voting public was not wholly enthused by this idea, which substituted a small but guaranteed retirement income with what would eventually become little more than an investment-determined lottery.

Labour, meanwhile, countered the Conservatives' proposals with its own Big Idea: the stakeholder pension. Under its sketchy proposals, a new layer of pension provision would be set up to include those who are not members of an employers' scheme. This system could be privately run and/or managed by community groups, trade unions or whomever Labour believes.

That's all very nice and will no doubt lead to more calls among pensions experts for contributions to such schemes to be made compulsory. After all, the litany goes, the state simply cannot afford to pay for everyone's pensions in retirement.

I wonder what they will say to the publication of a report from the Pension Provision Group (PPG), set up by the Government to advise on how best to fund for retirement. The PPG report is not some lefty-liberal exercise: its working group of experts was chaired by Tom Ross, chief executive of Scottish Widows, a leading insurance company.

Yet the report argues that there is a growing division be-

tween rich and poor pensioners and that to link the basic state pension to inflation and not wages will further widen this differential. It follows that if this is so, compulsory contributions become marginal as a concept after all, how are you going to be able to screw money out of people towards their pension if they barely earn enough to pay the rent? Moreover, what use are "matching contributions" as a means of incentivising retirement saving, when the most people have to set aside is a few pounds a month?

Ultimately, as this report recognises, there is no escaping a basic fact. No matter how good occupational pensions are for many, or how cheap personal pensions are becoming, or how wonderful stakeholder pensions will be, the basic pension will have to be upgraded. And to keep pensioners from destitution, there will have to be some links to wages not prices. Is anyone out there listening?

Anyone watching the behaviour of the FTSE 100 share index could be forgiven for feeling confused. Drops of more than 100 points, followed by minor recoveries, are now commonplace. It is too soon to know if this is the start of a so-called stock market "correction". But for those who are becoming jittery, we are launching a mini-series, starting this week on page 7, on how to develop a "defensive" investment strategy. Next week, collective investments and some tips from advisers. Happy reading.

## FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

# When it's time to stop living hand to mouth

Name: Jane Talbot

Age: 52

Occupation: self-employed audio producer

The problem: Jane is considering three issues that she feels require her to change her approach to life: her self-employed income is drying up; she has inherited a flat worth about £170,000; and, finally, given her age, she feels it is time to think about retirement planning. She rents the flat out. Is this sensible? If not, what?

The solution: Continuing to rent the flat does not make sense: the returns are too low. If she sold it and invested the money in other collective funds, she could achieve a higher income.

Jane has, in her own words, "pottered along in a slightly hand to mouth way for many years". But she feels the need for a more structured approach now that her career is beginning to wind down. While in the 12 months to April she earned about £14,000 in freelance earnings, Jane is projecting only about a third of that for the current tax year.

Her annual income is boosted by £2,000 from a parental trust, plus about £12,000 rent from a second property, which she inherited three years ago and is worth about £180,000. She has, however, spent £21,000 to extend its lease, plus a further £20,000 on renovation work.

Jane holds shares in about seven companies, plus Treasury stock worth £28,000 at the last count. She has £6,000 in cash in five bank and building society accounts; £2,700 in National Savings certificates; a follow-on Tessa worth £7,600; and a Pep, first taken out in 1992, now worth about £6,000.

In addition to her inherited flat, on which she pays more than £4,000 in maintenance charges, insurance and repairs, Jane also owns another house, worth £100,000, on which she has a £26,000 endowment with five years to run and on which her annual outgoings are £3,000.

or so.

Now separated, Jane has no financial obligations and her health is good. In addition to normal bills, her only other major expense is some £384 a month spent on a variety of insurance policies. Were she to retire, her pension entitlement after 17 years' service at the BBC would be about £4,000.

As she sees it, the issues she wants to consider revolve around long-term planning for retirement - if she can continue to find work. If not, there's a need for more immediate income.

The adviser: John Edwards, a consultant with independent financial advisers, Berry Birch & Noble, De Salls Court, De Salls, Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcestershire (01905 775333).

The advice: Jane expects a sharp decline in her income. However, she says that she definitely wants to continue working and will take some other job if her present source of earnings dries up or disappears.

Her present income from the second property, plus the parental trust, is nearly £15,000. However this is subject to annual outgoings of over £4,250 on the flat and is liable to income tax which will vary, depending on the amount of earned income. If she does earn £5,000, her total net income would be around £13,250, after tax.

If so, she would just about have sufficient income to cover her outgoings, disregarding the returns from her shares, cash deposits and the possibility of taking the BBC pension early if push came to shove.

So the main concern is planning for "old age" and generating savings for great nieces and nephews, since she is keen to return some of the money inherited back into the family.

It is worth noting at this stage that apart from the BBC pension, Jane will be eligible for the state pension when she reaches 60. And, in five years'



Flat out: for Jane Talbot to continue renting out her apartment does not make sense - the returns are too low.

Photograph  
Nicola Kurtz

7 per cent net - by investing the money elsewhere.

House prices are certainly moving up at present from the disastrously low levels plumbed a few years ago. However, I am far from certain that this is suitable for Jane's circumstances. She already has £100,000 "invested" in her own residence, and with the second property she has the bulk of her eggs in one type of investment, which is distinctly inflexible and is best for providing capital gains rather than income. She is also being pressured to participate in buying the freehold to the whole building, which could be costly.

Selling the flat now, or later, would involve paying capital gains tax. Nevertheless, with proper timing to ensure that she takes advantage of her capital gains tax exemption of £6,800, and allowing for indexation relief and the money spent on the property, the capital gains tax bill should not be excessive.

The tax bill would quickly be offset by the increased returns available from other, more flexible investments, such as unit trusts or investment bonds. Selling the flat would be a pretty radical step, but I think it is an important key to providing more income for her old age with some surplus to pass on to the family.

Finally, I would question why Jane is paying out more than £380 in life insurance policies, as she has no dependents. I would have thought the money could be better spent on paying contributions for long-term care insurance. This would provide further protection for Jane in her "old age" and could avoid her estate being devastated by nursing-home bills.

time, the mortgage will be paid off and hopefully she will receive a lump-sum payment from the endowment policy, which she should keep paying into.

The Tessa, which she has just taken out, is fine: so are the National Savings certificates and the amount of cash held in the banks and building societies seems just about right.

There is a question mark, however, over the shares and Treasury stock. I would recommend cashing in at least £9,000 to finance the purchase of a general and single company. Personal Equity Plan

(Pep) in the last year these are available.

In addition, there is also a strong case for taking at least some of the profits made in recent years from stock market investments just in case there is a setback from the present high levels. It is never wrong to take a profit.

Personally, I would go for one of the protected Peps which provide a minimum return of original capital while the potential benefits are linked to stock market indices. It enables you to invest in the stock market with virtually no risk. The downside is that the money is

locked away for a lengthy period, but this fits in with planning for Jane's "old age".

We now reach the really crucial point. Is property a suitable investment for Jane? Her second property, a flat, is currently let for a gross return of £12,960. However, after paying out the maintenance charge, insurance and annual repairs, the gross return is reduced to £8,710. That is a pretty mouldy return of 4.8 per cent gross on the estimated value of £180,000, and it is even worse, once income tax is taken into account. Jane could earn a much higher return on the £180,000 - say

What should you do if you've built up funds in an occupational pension scheme but then leave the company? Rachel Fixsen collects independent advice on whether to place the money in a new scheme... or to leave the benefits exactly where they are

## So, jobs aren't for life. But can I take my pension with me?

If pensions were cars, then occupational schemes would surely be Aston Martins. The retirement benefits and insurance offered are hard to beat, though not everyone is lucky enough to have one. Your boss often contributes to the occupational scheme and the benefits offered would usually be out of reach in the private pensions market.

But jobs are now rarely for life, and most of us will switch employer at least once before retirement. When this happens, just what should you do with the pension you have accrued?

Don't panic, says Ian Williams, pensions specialist at independent Marshall Williams & Co in Horsham. Even if you are fired or end on really bad terms with your old boss, your accrued pension is in no danger.

"Some people don't trust their old employer, and don't seem to appreciate that the benefits are held in trust. Provided the scheme is insured, there's no need to worry," Mr Williams says.

If your new job comes with the opportunity to join a good workplace pension scheme, don't hesitate to join it, he says. But sooner or later, you will be faced with a decision on what to do with your old pension. Should you transfer it to the new scheme or leave it where it is, taking deferred benefits at retirement in addition to those from any subsequent scheme?

"The only real way to know this is to seek some advice," says Philip Telford of the Consumers' Association. According to CA research, you have a better chance of getting good advice from an inde-

pendent financial adviser than one tied to a particular financial services provider, he says. And advice given on a fee basis, rather than commission, is likely to be the most unbiased and objective, he says.

Many financial advisers got their fingers badly burned between 1988 and 1994 when they advised clients to leave occupational pension schemes, or not to join in the first place, and sign up for personal pension plans instead. The commission paid to advisers by the personal pension providers often proved hard to resist. Thousands of people lost out and the slow process of compensating them is now under way.

Regulations have since been tightened. From March next year, only financial advisers with a special qualification will be allowed to advise on pensions transfers.

There are two types of occupational pension scheme. Final salary is the most common. Your pension benefits are based on a proportion of your earnings at or near retirement, and also depends how long you have been in the scheme.

The other main type is money purchase, where contributions from you and your employer are invested and, when you retire, the fund that has built up is used to provide pension benefits. How much you end up with depends on the performance of the investments.

A few schemes are hybrids, having elements of both types. "If it's a money purchase scheme, there's no real problem," says Andrew Smith, pensions consultant at IFAs Towry Law in Windsor. "The

main thing to look out for is whether there is a penalty for transferring," he says. If there's a difference between the current value and the transfer value, then there is a penalty. However, if you are transferring to a personal pension, it is also important to compare the tax-free lump sum at retirement and death benefits, he says, plus the initial charge and the annual management fee of the private pension scheme.

There is not usually much point in transferring benefits from one final salary scheme to another of the same type, unless it's purely for convenience, says Mr Smith. If you leave the deferred pension where it is, it will increase by the rate of inflation, up to a maximum of 5 per cent a year, until you retire.

There is one exception, where you have left money in a final salary scheme, amounting to several years' service and you are now in a job where your likely final earnings will be much higher. If so, it makes sense to place the years from your old scheme, where they would be frozen at your old, lower salary, into the new pension scheme.

But you might want to transfer from a final salary scheme to a money purchase scheme if you thought that by investing the accrued pension you could improve benefits at retirement.

Before deciding whether to transfer from a final salary scheme to a money purchase plan, an adviser will do a "transfer analysis". All the benefits your final salary pension scheme offers you have a capital value, including, a spouse's pension, life

assurance, a tax-free lump sum at retirement and price indexation.

A transfer analysis will determine what level of investment growth per year you would need in order to be in exactly the same position at retirement as if you had stayed in the original job. This usually comes out at around 10 or 11 per cent, and whether or not you then opt to transfer depends on your attitude to risk.

Transfer values from final salary schemes fluctuate according to the interest rate cycle and this is another thing to consider before opting to transfer. When long-term interest rates are high, then transfer values are low, and vice versa. At the moment, transfer values are high. But in the late Eighties and early Nineties, they were low. "Anyone who took a transfer then should really review that," says Mr Williams. If they were badly advised to transfer, then compensation may be payable.

If you move to a new job where there is no workplace pension in place, or if you become self-employed, you will probably have to take out a personal pension plan. "Things to consider are the charges and commissions involved," says Des Hamilton, technical director at the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (OPAS). Again, you may need specialist advice on this.

Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, 0171-233 8080; Marshall Williams & Co, 01403 210534; Consumers' Association, 0171-830 6000; Towry Law, 01753 868244.

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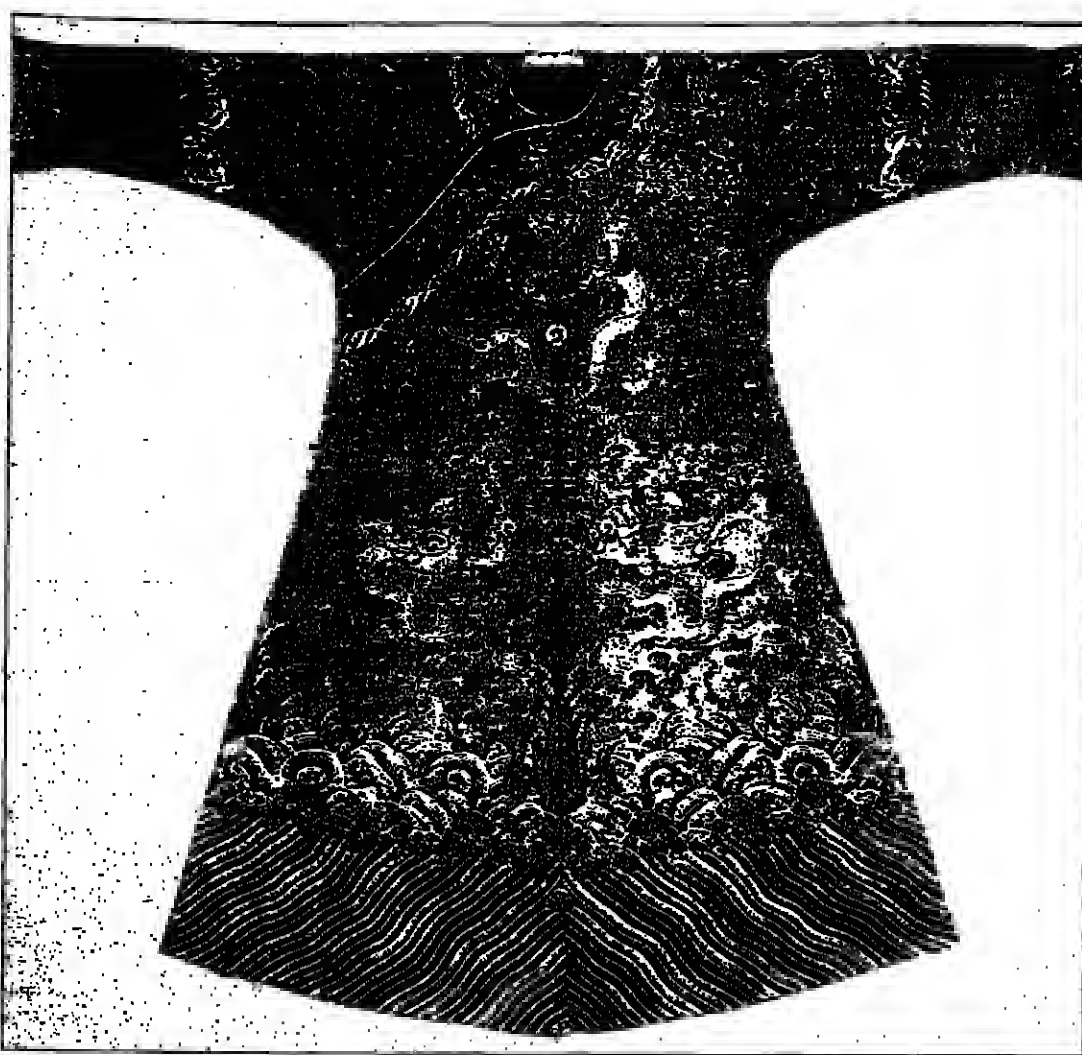
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# The emperor's old clothes

Collect to Invest  
Chinese Imperial robes have class and mysticism... and are now coveted as works of art. By John Windsor



An early 19th-century, Chinese Imperial dragon robe of deep orange silk, embroidered with coloured silk floss and gold-wrapped thread - according to experts, condition is everything

Ten years ago, few collectors looked twice at Chinese mandarins' brightly coloured surcoats with their finely woven dragons and birds. The Chinese porcelain and jade markets were long-established - but costume? It looked like a hang-over from Gilbert and Sullivan.

But a yellow robe worn by an Emperor of the Qing dynasty (17th to 19th centuries) bought for £15,000 a decade ago would be worth over £40,000 today.

The market will never be as broad as the market for paintings, but, compared with such traditional artworks, Chinese court robes are undervalued - and prices continue to rise. Demand is being fuelled not only by the rehabilitation of textiles as collectables and by the new buying power of the Chinese but also by the West's discovery of Feng Shui, the semi-mystical ancient Chinese system of architectural and interior design.

Robes of the appropriate colour, strategically hung in plastic cases in Western interiors, are a vital element of two, can, it is said, correct imbalances. Yellow, the Emperors' colour, will bump up the earth element (Chinese Emperors were expected to be earthy); red brings the quality of fire; blue and green of wood.

The robes of court mandarins were strictly colour-coded according to rank. Orange, brown, green and blue - the lower the rank, the more they deviated from Imperial yellow. Today, prices for robes are ranked the same way. But that is not the boon to investors that it might seem - quality and condition are paramount.

You may whoop at the sight of a dark blue-satin formal robe with nine dragons - signifying that it is from the Imperial court - but fail to note that it is cheap brocade, woven by a flying shuttle. It might have been

worn by an 18th-century provincial rice farmer, who had passed examinations in order to become an official at the Imperial court in Beijing, but who could not afford oodles and thread embroidery to produce a complex tapestry.

A brocade 18th-century formal court robe is estimated to fetch £500-£800 at Christie's South Kensington's bi-annual sale of Oriental Costume and Textiles on 10 June. South Keo launched dedicated Oriental costume sales only a year ago in response to rising demand from new collectors.

Lower range dragon robes such as the 18th-century brocade in Christie's sale have risen up to five times in value over the past decade, compared with middle and higher range garments that have risen up to 10 times. Finer quality embroidered robes, now being sold by dealers for £2,000-£3,000, would 10 years ago have commanded only £350.

If you have an eye for textile

quality and condition - which few people have without the help of a knowledgeable auctioneer or dealer - you could pick garments in this range out of Christie's South Ken sale at estimates ranging from £800-£1,200 to £1,500-£1,800.

And at Olympia, 11-15 June, the first fair devoted to textiles, with 50 dealers from Europe, Asia and America, will give you a chance to pick the brains of dealers such as Linda Wrigglesworth, who established the London market in Imperial costume back in 1978, when she was 22. She and her research/historian Gary Dickinson co-authored the definitive *Imperial Wardrobe*, published by Bamboo in 1991, now an out-of-print collectors' item.

Ms Wrigglesworth is refreshingly forthright about investing in Imperial robes: "You might pay two or three times the auction price buying from me, but I will take back anything you buy from me and sell it for you. It's like consulting a lawyer - you are paying for expertise acquired after years of study."

"We can do the legwork for company executives and help them to accumulate a fantastic

collection that will appreciate in value. If people want to invest in my field, I want to make sure they're investing wisely. I've not seen this market do anything but rise and it is the higher quality, rarer robes that are easiest to re-sell."

She recommends a safe starting price of £5,000-£6,000 per garment. It's that magic £5,000 again - the price at which so many other collectables reach an investment take-off point on the grounds of sheer quality.

For that money, she says, you would not get an Imperial robe (worn by the Emperor or his family) but you might just afford a finely woven court formal dress, and certainly a fine informal one.

"Condition is everything," she says. "When I say excellent, I mean perfect. If there are sweat marks under the armpits, splits on the shoulder line, even a single stain, I won't buy."

Ms Wrigglesworth is also an expert at spotting the subtle but crucially damaging alterations made by young flappers in the Twenties, who turned court robes brought back by missionaries into cocktail

dresses and bath robes.

As an example of buy-back she instances the Canadian couple who, in 1982, bought from her informal court robes at £500-£600 and formal robes for £1,000. She has re-sold them on commission - the informals for £2,000-£3,000 and the formals for £10,000.

Meanwhile, Mr Dickinson, who has schooled himself in Feng Shui, has hung a Chinese yellow tiger banner in his home, as much for protection as investment. His personal constitution is earth, he says, and, according to Feng Shui, the main living room in a home should be earth, too. But his living room faces south-east, giving it the quality of wood. Wood exhausts earth. But the yellow of his banner is an earth colour. And tigers are associated with the West and with metal - which destroys wood.

The Hall International Antiques Carpet and Textile Art Fair, Olympia, 11-15 June, entry £5 (0171-710 2135). Christie's South Kensington auction of Oriental Costumes and Textiles, Wednesday 10 June, 2pm. Enquiries: 0171-3213212.

## LOOSE CHANGE

Saga, the specialist services provider for the over-50s, has teamed up with Greco Flag to provide Comprehensive Breakdown Cover for £65 a year, including free European cover, or Roadside Assistance for £35 a year, which it claims is cheaper than the standard price charged. Call 0800 800662.

TSB has launched a six-year Guaranteed Stock Market Bond, with growth linked to the FTSE 100 share index. The bond's final returns will be linked to the average of the final 12 months index performance. If the market falls,

investors receive their original investment back. Bonuses of up to 0.5 per cent on the sum invested are payable for early applications. Call 0500 758444.

GNIP, the underwriting agency specialising in off-beat insurance, is launching an income protection policy which includes cover against the risk of AIDS or HIV to gay men and women. Benefits up to a maximum of £2,500 a month are payable for up to 12 months after a waiting period of 30, 60, or 90 days. Premiums start at £3.25 per £100 of monthly benefit. No medical examination is needed. Call 0171 2642012.

Abbey National is launching a range of packages for overseas travellers, including fee-free buybacks of currency notes and travellers' cheques; no commission on travel money purchases if bought with travel insurance; plus a free prize draw to win £2,000 a year for five years. Call any branch for details.

Leeds & Holbeck is increasing to 8.05 rates on its follow-on Tessa, for people whose existing Tessa has already matured. The rate applies to investments between £1 and £9,999. Call 0500 225777.

## INTERNET INVESTOR



ROBIN AMLÖT

So have you heard the one about the virgin and the banker? It is not quite as exciting as it might sound but it is still a significant development in terms of Internet access. A majority of the people who read this paper will have access to a computer either at home or at work. However, most of you are still likely not to be connected to the world wide web. You may be put off by scare stories or you may merely be utterly confused by the plethora of Internet service providers (ISPs). A solution is now at hand with the offer of free unlimited Internet access for a year.

Most ISPs will offer you some free access time as a come-on to take their service. What you actually get when you sign up may vary from an e-mail address, through a variety of packaged news and entertainment services, to your own web space for your own home page together with help putting it together. What you pay will also vary, but standard practice is a monthly charge on top of which there may be extra costs, depending on how much use you make of the Internet connection. Do remember you are also racking up the telephone bill at the same time but it will only be at local-call rates.

Which brings me back to

Tap into a web-based banking service - you may just find your money goes further

the virgin I mentioned. Virgin Net to be specific, which is the ISP established in November 1996 by the ubiquitous Richard Branson. Currently Virgin Net has 115,000 subscribers and claims to be the fastest growing UK Internet provider. It offers its customers all the things you would expect from an ISP, including e-mail facilities, a reasonable chunk of web space for your own use, community areas offering events and competitions, and content pitched towards news and entertainment.

And that brings me to the bank. This week Virgin Net teamed up with US banking giant Citibank in a deal that offers all new customers opening a Citibank current account free Internet access. The offer is worth a total of £143.88. You may feel this is not by itself a compelling reason to take out an account with Citibank. Indeed, by now means everybody will qualify to do so. You need to be earning at least £30,000 a year before they will consider you.

However, assuming you do qualify for a Citibank account, it does have several attractive features. These include competitive rates of interest on current account balances (a balance of £2,000 would pay 4.75 per cent

gross), free access to 18,000 ATMs across the country, a £500 "no bounce" zone if you accidentally overdraw, and free, real-time PC Banking.

In fact, Citibank has been offering a PC Banking service in the UK for three years. This is not a web-based service but relies on the bank's own dial-up facility. The ISP offer announced this week comes ahead of the planned launch of Citibank's Internet banking service scheduled later in the year. However, the offer does demonstrate the seriousness of the US banking group's intent in establishing a major "virtual" presence in UK personal banking.

Thanks to the technology that coalesces PC- and Web-based banking services, Citibank does not need to invest in a branch network to gain market share. Peter Wilkes, marketing director of Citibank International plc comments: "Electronic transactions can reduce banking transaction costs to a fraction of their traditional level. Without the cost of a UK branch network to support, Citibank is able to pass these savings on to customers who want to take advantage of direct access channels."

If you want to find out more about the free Internet access offer, you can call the freephone number 0800 008100 and you can check out the details of Citibank's PC banking system on the bank's web site. It also has an enlightening calculator which shows just how much better off you would be with a Citibank current account compared with accounts offered by First Direct, Barclays and NatWest.

Citibank: [www.citibank.co.uk](http://www.citibank.co.uk)

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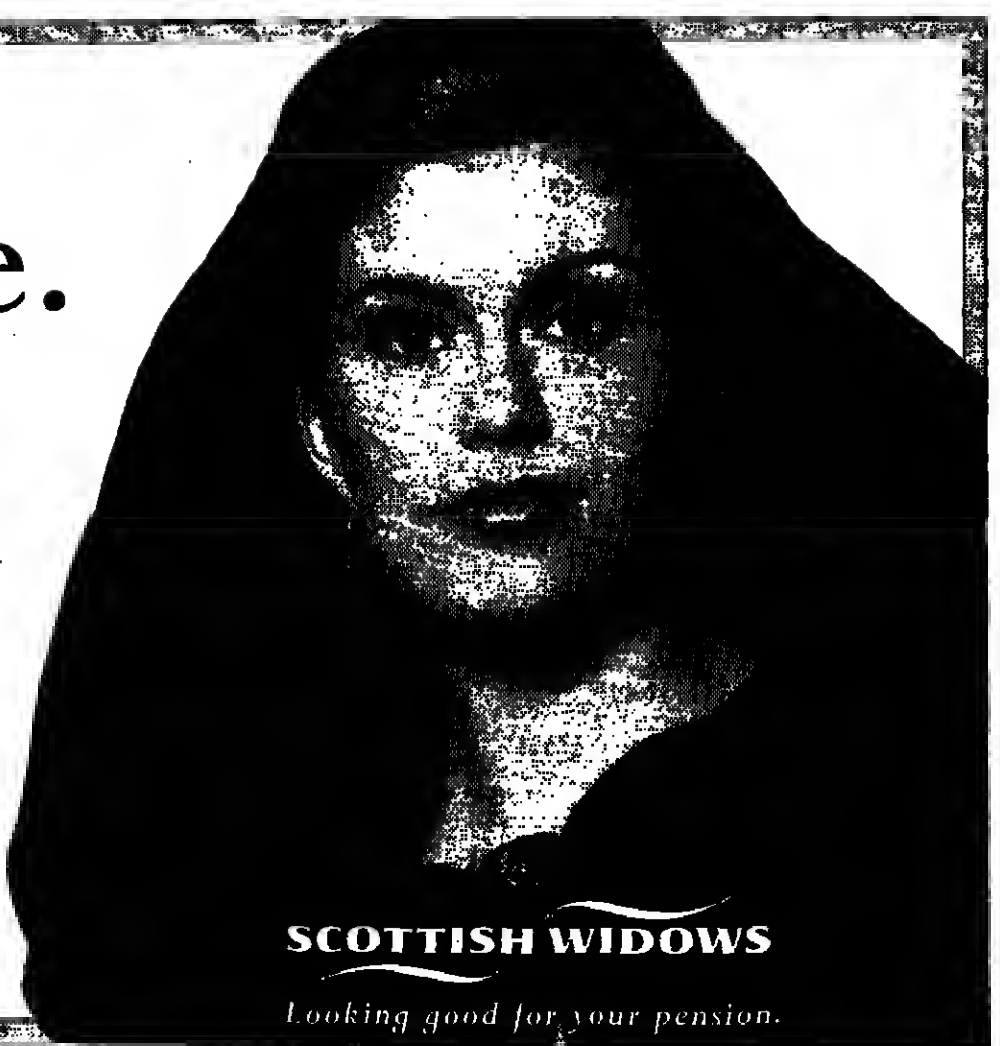
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BRIAN TORA

### Keep your powder dry

A little over three years ago I was instrumental in the setting up of an investment club. Properly constituted and run, these can be educational, profitable, and fun. This group, based originally around my local rugby club, has been all three for its members.

I attended the club's AGM this week. Of course, the point of an investment club is that members make up their own minds, but even so I was quite surprised to see how independent they had become in their decisions, even though they had an experienced stockbroker to turn to for guidance.

Two thirds of the club's assets are now in cash and they decided to keep it that way at Wednesday's meeting. Although not every investment they have made has turned out well, by being disciplined and debating fully the options before taking action, the club has done well. Their decision to cash in a large number of holdings a few weeks ago does not look too bad so far, but the question is what to do with the money.

There are plenty of shares they would like to buy but not at these prices. One of the companies discussed as representing the type of quality they would like to include in their portfolio was Siebe.

Siebe was the source of some embarrassment to me recently. A good relative performer this year, I tipped the stock in a television interview. The advice was given in the knowledge that the results were imminent, but Siebe was not usually in the business of disappointing shareholders. Nor did it, in terms of a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, but the more cautious than usual nature of the statement accompanying the results was enough to wipe 10 per cent off the shares in a day. The company believes that commercial

life will become tougher in the months ahead, so it is accelerating a restructuring programme aimed at diverting more of its manufacturing capacity to low-wage countries. Job losses in North America and Europe will follow as the company battles down the hatches, but that owes did not strike me as a reason to suddenly go negative on Siebe. Rather, it seems to be ahead of the game just at present.

Economists believe that by the year 2010 less than 10 per cent of America's gross national product will be represented by manufacturing industry. It will be the service sectors that dominate not only on the other side of the pond, but in all developed countries. A revolution is taking place no less dramatic than that which ushered in industrialisation to replace agriculture as the dominant economic force in the middle of the last century. Yet even as this manufacturing capacity transfers to the lesser developed countries, emerging markets remain in disarray. Currencies, stocks and bonds in South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America remain under pressure. Hardly cheering news.

One interesting snippet is that container rates seem set to rise. Apparently, such is the surge of exported goods from the Far East that containers and the ships to carry them are insufficient. We all knew it was likely, but most people have been happy to ignore the likely knock-on effect of cheap Asian imports. The effect on profitability over here could be quite severe. This investment club may have got it right. For now, keeping your powder dry seems the prudent option.

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton.

### BEST BORROWING RATES

MORTGAGES	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
<b>FIXED RATES</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	0.85% for 1 year	5%	0.75%	Fixed for up to 10 years
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	5.49% to 5.69%	5%	0.75%	No MP for up to 10 years
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5.49% to 5.69%	5%	0.75%	No MP for up to 10 years
<b>VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	1.50% for 1 year	5%	0.75%	2250 rebate
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	4.40% to 4.60%	5%	0.75%	No high lending fee
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	4.40% to 4.60%	5%	0.75%	No high lending fee
<b>FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	3.49% for 1 year	5%	0.75%	No MP for up to 10 years
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	5.29% to 5.49%	5%	0.75%	No high lending fee
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5.29% to 5.49%	5%	0.75%	No high lending fee
<b>FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	5.59% to 5.79%	5%	0.75%	Free high lending fee
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	5.59% to 5.79%	5%	0.75%	Free high lending fee
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5.59% to 5.79%	5%	0.75%	Free high lending fee

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
<b>UNSECURED</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	9.9% to 11.9%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	12.5% to 14.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	12.5% to 14.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
<b>SECURED LOANS (SECOND CHARGE)</b>						
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	9.9% to 11.9%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	12.5% to 14.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	12.5% to 14.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

OVERDRAFTS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	11.5% to 13.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	11.5% to 13.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	11.5% to 13.5%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

CREDIT CARDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Capital One Bank	0800 280000	0800 280000	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

STUDENT CARDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Capital One Bank	0800 280000	0800 280000	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

STUDENT CARDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Capital One Bank	0800 280000	0800 280000	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

STUDENT CARDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Capital One Bank	0800 280000	0800 280000	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1.99% to 2.99%	5%	0.75%	With insurance

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H - Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged.  
LTV - Loan to value.  
MP - Mortgage indemnity premium.  
W - Unemployment rate for a limited period.  
U - Unemployment insurance.  
\* If completion is before 30.4.98.  
All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01603 476476 4 June 1998

### BEST SAVINGS RATES

INSTANT ACCESS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Clydesdale Bank	0800 448885	0800 448885	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Woodward	0800 222200	0800 222200	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year

INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Standard Life Bank	0845 555557	0845 555557	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Scottish Widows Bank	0845 845 0229	0845 845 0229	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Savemy	0800 955555	0800 955555	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0800 787728	0800 787728	30 Day (P)	£25,000	7.00%	Year
Legal & General Bank	0800 111200	0800 111200	30 Day (P)	£10,000	6.00%	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	30 Day (P)	£10,000	7.00%	Year
Westminster Bank	0800 143888	0800 143888	30 Day (P)	£25,000	6.00%	Year

CHEQUE ACCOUNTS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank (UK)	0177 303 1930	0177 303 1930	Instant	£5,000	6.45%	Year
Woodward	013 335 8220	013 335 8220	Instant	£10,000	5.95%	Year
Cheltenham BS	0800 424222	0800 424222	Instant	£10,000	5.70%	Year
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0171 585 2523	0171 585 2523	Instant	£10,000	6.70%	Year

FIXED RATE BONDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0800 133149	0800 133149	Fixed Rate Bond	6 Months	£5,000	7.50% F
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	Fixed Rate Bond	6 Months	£5,000	7.50% F
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	Fixed Rate Bond	6 Months	£5,000	7.50% F

FIRST TESSAS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	01733 372222	01733 372222	5 Year	£100	8.00%	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£100	8.00%	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£100	8.00%	Year

FOLLOW-ON TESSAS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0800 225777	0800 225777	5 Year	£1	8.00%	Year
Barclays Bank	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£1	8.00%	Year
First National	0800 080088	0800 080088	5 Year	£1	8.00%	Year

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	1 Year	£10,000	6.25% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	1 Year	£10,000	6.25% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1 Year	£10,000	6.25% F	Year

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	Instant	£10,000	7.00%	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	Instant	£10,000	7.00%	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	Instant	£10,000	7.00%	Year

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	1 Month	£50	4.75%	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	1 Month	£50	4.75%	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	1 Month	£50	4.75%	Year

INCOME BONDS	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£100	6.00% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£100	6.00% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£100	6.00% F	Year

Capital Bonds Series L	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	12 Month	£100	6.00% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	12 Month	£100	6.00% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	12 Month	£100	6.00% F	Year

Personal Guaranteed Income Bond Series 5	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£500	6.10% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£500	6.10% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£500	6.10% F	Year

13th Index-Linked (net)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£100	2.25% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£100	2.25% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£100	2.25% F	Year

Childcare Bonds Series J (net)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year

Childcare Bonds Series J (net)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year

Childcare Bonds Series J (net)	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Barclays Bank	0181 207 0007	0181 207 0007	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
First National	0800 555544	0800 555544	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year
Abbey National	0800 133100	0800 133100	5 Year	£25	6.00% F	Year

### DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Direct Line Instant Access Account	0181 667 1121	0181 667 1121	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	0181 649 9099	0181 649 9099	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year
Direct Line Personal Loans	0181 680 9966	0181 680 9966	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year

PERSONAL LOAN RATES	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest
Direct Line Personal Loans	0181 680 9966	0181 680 9966	Instant	£1	6.75%	Year

PERSONAL LOAN RATES	Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate
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# THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

*Journal of Management Education* 30(6)p. 789-804



هكذا من الأصل



# On the defensive

Minimising risk during a precarious stock market period requires a variety of tactics. Rachel Ffrench asks the experts for advice



Pharmaceutical companies such as Glaxo would fit a defensive portfolio, being global players

When storm clouds gather on the stock market horizon, small investors might be tempted to run for cover. But short of selling everything remotely resembling a share and sticking the lot in a deposit account, how exactly can you defend yourself?

It all depends on what type of risk you want to minimise and what your personal view of the market is. For instance, if you fear a major correction on the UK stock market, you could diversify your stockholdings into foreign shares. Or if you are worried about an even stronger pound breaking the legs of UK exporters, stick to shares with no exposure to foreign markets.

Using collective investments such as unit trusts and investment trusts keeps your money safer by spreading your exposure to individual shares, and using some of your portfolio to buy gilts or other bonds at least protects part of your investment from stock market turbulence.

But however much you may want to employ risk-avoidance tactics, make sure it makes sense from a tax point of view, stockbrokers warn. Selling off a holding may well involve realising a capital gain, leaving you liable to pay capital gains tax.

How would stockbrokers

**The secret is to use a combination of shares, where, if one falls in value, the others are likely to rise**

shape a hypothetical £100,000 defensive investment portfolio?

David Carroll, of Barclays Stockbrokers is not worried by the current state of the market. "I actually think this is one of the short-term blips," he says. Having been very heavily into cash for the first few months of this year, he says he is now buying shares. "But I still wouldn't go jumping in entirely at the moment," he adds. For that part of the portfolio in equities, he advises sticking with UK stocks and being selective about global players.

On Mr Carroll's list of defensive buys are: Barclays, because bank stocks have seen a virtual crash in its prices recently and the downside in this sector is certainly limited from here; Glaxo, which may well be the most volatile on this list but the company is globally diversified, selling products almost everywhere in the world; Land Securities, which is likely to benefit from falling interest rates over the next few years; and Whitbread, which has UK-only earnings, saving it from the battering that fluctuating exchange rates can give some stocks. Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, British Telecom and Tesco are also on his buy list.

A defensive investor should avoid information technology stocks, Mr Carroll says. The shares are trading at inflated levels, having priced in huge profit growth expectations. Some will need to have profit growth of 25 to 30 per cent a year for at least the next four years to justify today's prices, he says.

Steer clear of smaller companies. "When the economy tightens, the companies that benefit are the bigger ones because of economies of scale," Carroll says. Second line retailers such as Oasis and Deben-

hams do not belong in a defensive portfolio, he says.

Michael Winslow of Henderson Crosthwaite, another stockbroking firm, says a £100,000 portfolio is best restricted to collective investments rather than individual shares. Upfront charges of around 2 per cent for investing in the shares of a single company make it uneconomical.

To play safe, a proportion of the portfolio should be held in zero-dividend preference shares. "With these, any fall back in the market will always be well covered," he says.

They should yield around 6 to 6.5 per cent capital growth and are very low risk.

Slightly further up the risk scale are income shares in an investment trust. Investment trust shares are now trading at a discount of 10 to 20 per cent to their net asset value.

"There is a little bit of a buffer there and that will also give you extra gearing if the market does race," says Mr Winslow.

Investing money in an OEIC (Open Ended Investment Company), which is usually run offshore, can give great flexibility. These are often umbrellas sheltering a number of investment funds. Once invested, you can switch between the funds, depending on the market outlook at the time, for very little money, Winslow says.

If you are sceptical about where the market is going, keep a proportion of your portfolio invested in a bear fund, he says. A bear fund uses derivatives to go against the market's direction. "If the market falls back it goes up in value," he adds.

For a defensive stocks portfolio, the secret is to use a combination of shares, says Winslow, where, if one falls in value, the others are likely to rise. Utilities - particularly water stocks - would be suitable, and have no overseas exposure. On the other side, pharmaceuticals would also fit, being global players. Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-Kline Beecham are both at good buying levels, Winslow says. Telecommunications stocks and IT stocks should be avoided. "They have had exceptionally strong runs and may be first to be hit in bouts of profit taking," he says.

William Davies, of Albert E Sharp, says for a defensive investor the portfolio should be split into cash, low-risk investments and equities. About £10,000 should be on instant access. As a low-risk investment, he would recommend £20,000 go into a with-profit bond and a further £15,000 into fixed-interest securities. The rest should be in shares. "This may appear high in the context of a 25 per cent rise over the last year in the UK, but I believe good quality equities provide the greatest protection against real capital erosion over time," says Davies.

Among shareholdings should be Shell, British Aerospace and SmithKline Beecham. GUS - best known as the leading home catalogue company - is another good holding for the defensive investor, Davies says. It also handles all functions related to credit cards, and will benefit from the continuing trend to outsource, he says.

British land is also an increasingly attractive purchase as property is a defensive investment - not only because property markets usually lag equity markets, but also because as interest rates fall, the yield from property becomes higher.

## Defensive investments: a glossary

**Corporate bond unit trusts**  
Funds that invest in fixed-interest securities, including those issued by companies. Best suited to income rather than capital growth investors.

**Escalator unit trusts**  
A type of protected unit trust offering a higher-than-usual level of protection. The selling price floor is set at a higher level, perhaps 98 or even 100 per cent of the prevailing bid price.

**Fixed-interest funds**  
Funds investing in stocks that pay a set return each year, including corporate bonds and government bonds such as UK gilts.

**Guaranteed equity bonds**  
Type of bond that runs for a fixed term, and offers a return linked to the performance of one or more stock market indices.

**High-income bonds**  
Money is invested for a fixed term, and a predetermined level of income is paid monthly or annually. Original capital is returned at the end of the term, provided a certain stock market index or combination has not fallen over that term.

**National Savings products**  
Offer maximum safety as they are backed by the Government. Some products are tax-free up to certain levels, including Index-linked Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds.

**Property funds**  
Funds invested in commercial or residential property, either directly or by investing in the shares of companies in the property sector.

**Protected unit trusts**  
Investment funds that offer a protected selling price, usually fixed for a certain period. They give investors security in case of a market crash.

**Stepped preference shares**  
A class of share offered as part of a split capital investment trust. They pay a regular return, with the level fixed in advance. When the trust is wound up, a further gain may be made.

**Tessas - Tax-Exempt Special Savings Accounts**  
Five-year savings plans in which interest accumulates tax free if capital stays invested for the full term. Each investor can put a

maximum of £9,000 into the plan. Follow-on plans are available. Be quick: Tessas will cease being sold after April 1999 in favour of the Government's new Individual Savings Account.

**Unit trusts**  
A fund of various investments, which can include shares and bonds. Investors buy units of the fund at the current market price, giving them a relatively small amount of money to spread their risk across many holdings.

**With-profits investments**  
Life companies offer this type of investment structure on bonds and endowment policies. Investment volatility is smoothed out by distributing the company's profits relatively evenly in the form of an annual bonus and a terminal bonus when the investment matures.

**Zero-dividend preference shares**  
Low-risk class of share offered as part of a split capital investment trust. The shares pay no income but get a fixed pay-out when the trust is wound up.

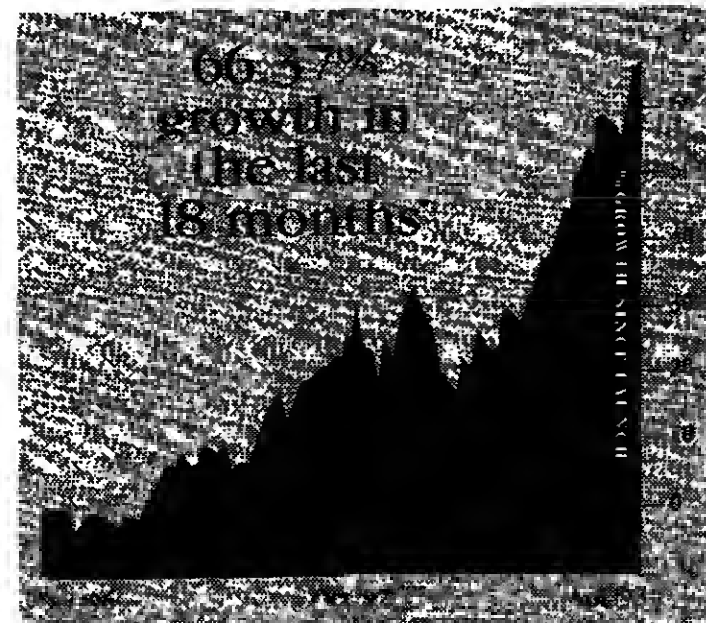
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GAVIN GREEN

Good cars, as with everything, are just a collection of small parts. And while the whole is getting more handsome, so the bits are getting more interesting, too.

A rich stream of details is one of the strengths of the new Volkswagen Golf, just on sale in the UK. And while I appreciated them, I got thinking about other details of cars I have driven recently, that have given me pleasure, or increased the car's practicality – or, ideally, both.

Great Golf touches include marvellously damped grab handles, already seen on the new Passat. Grab most grab handles and then let go, and they spring back on your knuckles like the jaws of a mousetrap. Let go of the Golf's, and they elegantly and gently return to base.

I also love the blue backlit instrument lighting at night, which provides far more visual comfort and clarity than the usual meanly-illuminated display. And the "slush" moulded plastic dash instantly elevates the Golf's dashboard up into Mercedes/Jaguar/BMW territory, while maintaining the Ford Escort price.

Still on the subject of interiors, Volvo's integrated rear fold-down child seat is a clever piece of work. The V70 estate I drove a couple of weeks back had one, and what a pleasure it was to use. However, at £260 on the basic S40 (£130 on the V70 estate) it's a pricey alternative to a Mothercare portable.

Think Volvo and you think safety. Yet Renault's ingenious remote radio controls, fitted on column stalks, are at least as big a safety boon as the protective armour fitted to modern Volvos. Instead of searching low on the centre console for tiny, badly sited radio knobs and minuscule buttons, taking your eyes off the road and contorting your body into positions that make driving difficult, you simply tune your radio with easy-to-use controls just a finger stretch from the steering wheel. Most makers are finally copying Renault, with good reason.

Renault also scores with the new Espace's brilliant dashboard – the first car to use a dashboard intelligently. Dashes, as I have pointed out before, are futile throwbacks to the old horse-drawn carriage days when they prevented mud splashing on to passengers. Renault has turned the Espace's dash into a huge glovebox (big enough for a briefcase), has built it nice and low, and has swathed it in attractive fabric rather than the usual plastic.

The Espace's little brother, the Scenic, scores with its brilliant multi-purpose parcel shelf. Parcel shelves, in hatchback or estate boots, act merely as expensive covers to stop prying eyes turning into thieving hands. On the Scenic, the parcel shelf can be positioned at various heights in the boot, allowing you to double-stack goods.

Renault's little Twingo, out sold in Britain, has a fore-aft-adjustable rear seat that allows you to vary rear leg room or boot space. And for similar intelligent use of cabin space, Alfa's 145 has a large dug-out dashboard area in front of the passenger, greatly increasing knee- and legroom. Passengers do not need to sit behind bulky dashboards, unlike the poor driver.

Finally, let's look at roofs. The magic electric folding Mercedes SLK roof is all very well, but the far cheaper Mazda MX-5's ragtop is as cleverly engineered – and you can fold it, or erect it, by hand without getting out of the driver's seat. It's a far cry from the complicated manual manoeuvres necessary to put up, or down, the soft tops of various old British roadsters. Plus, the MX-5's roof doesn't leak when it rains.

# The bike that thinks it's a car

Small is beautiful: Rolan Brown rides the BMW C1, a novel approach to economical, environmentally friendly motoring

When it was first revealed at a German motorcycle show six years ago, BMW's prototype C1 was regarded by many people as being much like that other futuristic form of transport, the personal autogiro.

Yes, sure, if in a few years' time we were't all flying across town with rotor blades strapped to our backs, we'd be commuting in an egg-like construction somewhere between a motorbike and a car, wearing nothing more protective than a business suit.

Except that this time the science fiction may become reality. In spring of the year 2000 the C1 will go on sale, for about £3,500. This new BMW will be able to be ridden, or driven, by anyone with a car licence (after taking the normal motorcycle basic training). And if British transport authorities follow those of Germany, no crash helmet will be required.

The idea of a scooter with a roof is not new, but the C1 certainly is. Previous roofed bikes, from Honda and others, have simply provided weather protection. The C1's key feature is an inbuilt secondary safety system incorporating a frontal impact absorption zone, rider safety cage, seat belts and a headrest.

BMW says that not only is the C1 by far the safest ever motorcycle, but the protection it provides in a head-on crash approaches that of a small car. Much of that protection comes from the foam-filled beak above the front wheel, and from the aluminium cage, strong enough to support a car on the C1's roof.

The Telelever front suspension system, similar to that of other BMW bikes, is also designed to absorb energy on impact. Given that the rider will remain strapped inside the bike in an accident, BMW says the extra weight of a helmet is a disadvantage.

The C1's powerplant is a contrastingly conventional: a 125cc single-cylinder four-stroke unit, equipped with a catalytic converter and producing a maximum of 15bhp. In typical scooter fashion, the water-cooled motor is bolted to the rear swing-arm. Its variable automatic transmission makes riding a simple twist-and-go affair and leaves the handlebars free for scooter-style front and rear brake levers.

Riding the C1 is nevertheless a novel experience, as I discovered when BMW let loose a group of car and bike journalists on prototypes at a test facility near Munich. The feet-forward riding position, windscreen (with wiper) and twin seat-belts are reminiscent of a small car. But once you're under way the C1 is very much a bike, inevitably feeling top-heavy but handling much like a conventional giant scooter.

Performance was modest, with a top speed of 55mph. (Production bikes, which will be fuel-injected, will be slightly quicker).

Crucially there was enough acceleration to keep ahead of most traffic in town, although existing motorcyclists and those planning longer trips would find this learner-legal machine distinctly sluggish.

Stability at speed in calm weather was fine, and the C1 cornered reasonably well on its small, scooter-style wheels. The BMW also felt well-balanced and manoeuvrable at slow speed, despite its height. Although it is wider, heavier and less agile than most small bikes, slipping to the front of traffic queues should be easy, with practice. Single disc brakes at front and rear gave adequate stopping power. ABS will be an option.

Other safety features were harder to assess. When one inexperienced motorcyclist toppled over at slow speed, the C1 worked as intended as he stayed strapped in the cockpit without a scratch. But the machine's real value was best illustrated by crash-test videos, in which a dummy remained inside as the C1 hit a car at various angles. Footage of a normal bike in similar accidents would have made gruesome viewing.

Whether the C1's safety advantages will tempt people away from cars and public transport remains to be seen, but it does seem to combine practicality, safety and efficiency – both financial and environmental – in an unprecedented way. The rear platform can be used for luggage-carrying, or adapted to carry a pillion (who will need a helmet and protective clothing) if the rider has passed the hike test. Accessories will include radio/CD player, navigation system and heated seat, with airbags following later.

BMW hopes the C1 will be popular with commuters, families (replacing a second car) and services ranging from police to food delivery. This may depend on whether it can legally be ridden, as intended, without a helmet. If so, the C1 may become a major mode of transport in future.



Wind in the hair motoring for drivers with a sense of balance, the BMW C1 claims to be the safest form of two-wheeled travel yet devised  
Photograph: Rolan Brown

## Pint-sized pizazz

Road test Fiat Seicento, by Roger Bell



The crèche is getting crowded. Buoyed by the Government's small-is-beautiful edict, sales of budget-priced babes look set to escalate as gridlocked Britain grinds to a halt.

New kids on the block include Seat's tiny Arosa, precursor of the sub-Polo-sized VW Lupo; Daiwo's three-cylinder Matiz, coming soon; Hyundai's Atoz (troubled South Korea is big on small cars); Suzuki's oddball Wagon R, and a gang of dinky Daihatsus led by the Cuore. The city dodgem they all have to beat is the oen Fiat Seicento (600), which, if nothing else, is easier to pronounce than the Cinquecento (500) it replaces.

The Polish-made Seicento is seriously small. Fiat describes it as "Europe's most compact" car though the Mini – ooc wheels for the impecunious, now a pricey fashion accessory for the well-heeled – is shorter. So is the Cuore. However, Ford's small-

est car, the Fiesta-based Ka, looks gargantuan alongside a Seicento, which is under 11ft long and upright with it – all the better to cram in four adults, those up front with ample room for elbows and legs, if not big feet on tiny pedals.

The guillotined rump conceals a ledge-like boot, which is no more than to be expected of a car that will slot into parking spaces others can't reach. As if to reflect its cheeky nature, the Seicento wears a saucy grin.

Loud hucs and a bold shape – the speedo's a Cyclops eye and switches are chunky – give the colourful cabin a jaunty mien, more Mickey Mouse than mainstream. Carry-all bins reflect Fiat's devotion to efficient packaging and practicality. There are no frills, though up-range models get electric windows and central locking. Later options will include power steering and a Clumatic clutchless gear change.

Fiat 600s once had 600cc engines. The Seicento comes with a choice of two four-cylinder petrols when it goes on sale next week at prices close to those of the outgoing Cinquecento – £6,800-£7,500. The S's 1.0 16V 900cc 39hp engine, which, despite modern exhaust cleansing, is almost as old as the Ark. Marginal motorists who want some pizazz should opt instead for the livelier Sporting, powered by an 1,100cc 54hp engine capable of 50 miles to the gallon.

To tag the Seicento a city car is to discredit its role as an inter-city ooc. Even the sluggish 900 cruises tolerably quietly, despite low gearing. If the Seicento is flawed as an urban funabout, it has less to do with zap – entertaining in the Sporting – than with agility. About town, the steering lacks bite and the ride's a bit agitated. From such a pert little car, I'd expected more hrio.

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## MY WORST CAR: DALE WINTON'S OPEL MONZA

I'm absolutely crazy about cars. My favourite kind is a coupé, the bigger the better – the American Caddies, Chevro and Lincolns. Back in the late Seventies I owned a yellow Vauxhall Cavalier coupé. I decided to trade up and in a garage in Nottingham I found two European models: a Vauxhall Senator and an Opel Monza.



The Senator was a comfortable four-door saloon, but I couldn't help being drawn towards the Opel Monza, purely because it was a great big coupé. The salesman kept directing me back to the Senator, I think he knew all too well what a pig of a car that Monza was. But I still went for it.

It looked OK. The colour was a metallic grey and it was the top-of-the-range 3.0 litre model. As I drove it away I

realised there was a lot wrong – including a 2-in gap one side of the steering column. It must have been stuck back together after a big accident. When I accelerated there was a nasty, grinding noise.

It went back to the garage dozens of times. The electric windows were a nightmare, the dash was always flashing at me and

it was always breaking down. Even the roof had been damaged by the "For Sale" sign. It must have been on sale for ages until a sucker, like me came along.

From 18 May Dale Winton will present 'Lorraine Live' on GMTV. He was talking to James Ruppert.

هاتنا من الاصل



# Converting the heritage watchdog

Many developers agree with Alan Clark that English Heritage has got 'too big for its boots'. But conservationists insist that preservation is all in the finer details. Penny Jackson reports

Alan Clark, the former Conservative minister, gave English Heritage something of a roasting in the House of Commons a few weeks ago after his medieval home in Kent was listed on a Buildings at Risk register. He told the Commons that he had been "named and shamed" and that the heritage watchdog had become "too big for its boots".

Criticism of our homes, like our families, is guaranteed to set hackles rising, but English Heritage points out that the decay at Saltwood Castle referred only to the perimeter wall and that Mr Clark was not mentioned by name. Even if the heat has been taken out of this particular dispute, the line between sensitive conservation and overzealous officialdom is a fine one.

English Heritage is a quango that advises the Government on all aspects of historic buildings, as well as involving itself in changes to Grade I and Grade II listed properties. The number of applications for listed building consent has increased enormously over the past few years as the trend for converting redundant buildings into homes, particularly in London, has grown.

Not surprisingly, developers and conservationists don't always see eye to eye. It is not that they fail to agree on the need to preserve old buildings but that they differ on the detail and extent. This week has seen the wraps come off Earl's Terrace, a Georgian terrace in Kensington, London, which has been completely renovated. The 25 houses have been dubbed the new millionaire's row, and since prices start at £3.25 million, it is clear that more than a few improvements have been made to its early 19th-century origins.

But there was a point when John Hunter, of Northacre, the developers, wondered whether they would ever cross the finishing line. "We would have saved ourselves months and months of heartache if we had not had to fight English Heritage on so many points. Our objective was to maintain the character of the terrace, but even though they were in



a dangerous state we had to re-assemble the staircases with 80 per cent of the original wood. We could have made new ones at exactly the same rate at a fraction of the £30,000 each one cost and I would defy anyone to tell the difference.

"The floors were sloping and there were great gaps under the doors because the backbone of the houses had slipped," says Mr Hunter. "I was told that it was part of the character of the terrace and shouldn't be changed, but I argued that it wasn't originally built with uneven floors." Finally, a structure went in to strengthen the building so the floors could be levelled but the original joists have been kept even though they serve no function. "Do we really sleep better at night knowing that they are there?" asks John Hunter.

"The same with the windows. We

could have put in identical windows with sealed units, but because in a certain light the glass appeared slightly tinted, we were only allowed to use single panes of glass. Conservation should mean preserving the best but not without regard for how people want to live. I think the blend of new and old is exciting," he says.

At Observatory Gardens in Kensington, Northacre wanted to replace the porches and bays missing from a number of the houses. Only when they were able to produce photographic evidence that they had existed before a bomb hit the terrace were they allowed to rebuild them. "I make sure that those working for me know more about a building than the specialists," says John Hunter.

At English Heritage, Philip Davies, regional director for London, is familiar with many of those argu-

ments. The bulk of his work revolves around Georgian terraces and sloping floors are fairly typical. "Some developers promote buildings with uneven floors because people want their historic buildings to be genuine. Same with the walls. Often the brickwork is not bonded together well but it is very easy to tie the skins together, even if there is a bulge in the wall."

Ten years ago, English Heritage would have been arguing with an owner about considering a change of use for a building but now people are falling over themselves to find a derelict warehouse or crumbling tower. "We would never have found a sympathetic use for schools and even public conveniences then," says Davies.

"We would like to have more of a problem-solving role, in terms of making suggestions about how buildings can be used, but we are not able

to get involved with every project. Some people will see our role as meddling, but developers do not always recognise the importance of what they are dealing with."

No one disputes that without English Heritage, market forces could lead us back to destructiveness of modernisation: in the 1950s a country house was demolished every week.

Michael Wilson, a developer, architect and contractor who specialises in restoring Grade I properties, has seen the damage done by cost-cutting. "Dire proposals for drab and bland reproductions without regard for the original building," he says. "Once you have a feel for what English Heritage want you can work with them and our aims are the same. I am very much a conservationist so I want to put things back as they were, but it can be an uphill struggle if you want to alter the ap-

pearance or add things. The local conservation officer is often the person who gives you most feedback."

At present, he is in the finishing stages of converting Burton House, near Petworth, Sussex, into apartments and has just won an award for the second year running for the best renovated property. Wilson employs his own team of specialist craftsmen.

His biggest frustration is the time it can take to negotiate the various stages with English Heritage. "A simple modification can take months and months to be approved. They may move faster if a building is a deteriorating but delays obviously cost us money."

Earl's Terrace: agents FPD Savills, Chesterfield and WA Ellis. Burton House: remaining apartments from £300,000. Sales office 01798 34164, and agents Hamptons International.

Millionaire's row: developers of Earl's Terrace in Kensington had to fight English Heritage on many details - including the sloping floors, which, the watchdog insisted, were part of the houses' character. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

## And here's the bedroom ...

Illicit sex and wild parties are not what you expect your estate agent to get up to when you hand over your keys. But a new survey reveals that, yes, it does go on. By Ginetta Vedrickas

Your house is for sale and your agent has the keys. You go away for the weekend, reassured that they are hard at work alerting prospective buyers to your ample power points. But are you certain they are not plugging away at something quite different?

A survey of almost 1,000 estate agents, commissioned by *Stuff* magazine, revealed a host of unsavoury vices: ten per cent had "made themselves at home" in a property for which they held keys, a quarter admitted to having sex in the houses they were selling, a practice that surely ranks as making yourself at home, and 5 per cent had given a party in a property. Many of us harbour less than positive feelings towards estate agents, but can you imagine your agent "at home" and in your house?

Does the survey reflect reality? Mark Coulter, a negotiator at Chestertons estate agents, admits he chose his profession because he "likes variety". But Mark can shed no light on any tawdry goings-on.

"I've never been invited to illicit parties in clients' homes and wouldn't go on principle," says Mark, who doesn't quite fit the cartoon-like figure illustrated in *Stuff*.

He doesn't own the regulation BMW driven by the majority of agents, according to the survey, and, unlike the 39 per cent top category who listed salary as the main reason for entering their profession, Mark's motives are different: "I like getting out and about and meeting people." So what does he drive? "I should make something up but it's a Ford Fiesta. I'm quite boring really," says Mark reassuringly.

Andy Clarkson, *Stuff*'s editor, was shocked by the results and believes estate agents compare unfavourably with other professions they've surveyed. Were the findings fair? "It was anonymous and we've no reason to believe they would lie." Andy knows no agents personally, so has not received invitations to any legendary parties: "I wouldn't want to know anyone from this survey. Most of them said they were right-wing-voting *Telegraph* readers, which goes against all national averages."

Unsurprisingly, no agents took *The Independent* into their confidence and admitted to any clandestine affairs or swinging parties. But some had interesting tales to tell. A senior negotiator recounts his worst experience in 15 years' practice: "A divorcing couple had their flat on our books. They'd moved out and we had the keys. One day the woman came in yelling that her husband must have moved back in because she'd been round and found the place full of furniture. I told her it was impossible and that an agent had recently shown clients round. The agent in question

went red and admitted that the furniture was his." What happened to the blushing boy? "We sacked him on the spot but he's still in the business and recently featured in a TV documentary."

Most vendors assume their property is safe in an agent's hands and trust them to act responsibly. There were no signs that anyone had been bouncing on Louise Rainbow's bed when she sold her Brixton flat but on visiting an agency to arrange viewings, she found surprisingly unprofessional attitudes: "We walked in and told the agents what we were looking for. They didn't know us from Adam, yet they dished out keys and we went to look at a flat unaccompanied. There was dirty washing everywhere, it was embarrassing, and we could have been anyone."

Stephen Smith, manager of Bushells' Dulwich branch, finds Louise's experience "appalling". "It should never happen, what if something goes missing? We accompany everyone, even after exchange of contracts," says Stephen, who finds the survey totally unrepresentative of the industry. "Ask stupid questions and you get stupid answers. You always get the odd one but I think there's an element of trying to be clever old Jack-the-lad here."

The survey was aimed at male agents: would the results be the same for women? Johanna Haddon-Knowles, of Muswell Hill estate agency JHK, does not believe the findings represent anyone in the industry in which she's worked for 10 years: "I've never had sex or thrown a party in a client's home and I wouldn't dream of it."

Isn't she ever tempted to just try on clients' clothes? "The nearest I



get to making myself at home is feeding their cats if they're miaowing madly or having a pee if I'm caught short," says Johanna, a self-confessed feline fanatic.

You may wish Johanna would make herself at home in your property, as her service goes beyond the call of duty. "With very untidy clients I pop round five minutes before a viewing and kick the dirty underwear under the bed," she says. Johanna never allows unaccompanied viewings but hears weekly tales of agents who do: "They are absolute twats, what a bloody risk."

Buyers and sellers with complaints against agents now have

more hope of redress since the Ombudsman widened its scheme to include independent as well as corporate agents earlier this year. Top of last year's list at 684 complaints was maladministration followed by 261 complaints about commission fees.

No categories exist for "agent throws party or has sex on premises". Does that mean it never happens? "We didn't have a complaint about a party last year but we have had them," says John Gray, spokesperson for the Ombudsman.

Why none lately? "Maybe they just haven't been caught," says John: "That's the ultimate sin." Stephen

Smith accepts that errors happen but is intolerant of some complainants: "My impression is that it's sometimes a way of trying to chip the fee. They should ask themselves if their expectations are realistic."

Some questions make the survey's results questionable. When asked if there is such a thing as an honest estate agent, 57 per cent said that most lie to make a sale and 11 per cent said they all do. But can we believe them?

*The Ombudsman for Estate Agents*, 01722 333306; *Chestertons*, 0171-357 6911; *Bushells*, 0181-399 1722; *JHK*, 0181-883 5485.

"Make yourself at home" takes on a whole new meaning when it's the estate agent doing it







# The nightmare of your first time

If it feels right, go for it may be the advice of some estate agents, but virgins to the property market do have a lot to learn, says Ginetta Vedrickas. Not least, don't panic

Those of us sitting prettily in properties of our own can bask in the warm knowledge that our assets are increasing, unless of course we want to trade up. Not everyone is so sure, and for first-time buyers rising house prices equal rising panic and the fear of never getting even a toe on the property ladder.

Sarah Collier and her partner Kevin were renting a flat until the birth of their baby Thomas brought an urgent need for a house of their own. "We've never been so sensible in our lives before," the couple shared the same vision of their ideal home, "a terraced cottage with two bedrooms, proper sash windows and definitely a garden", but the search in Streatham Common, an area "with loads of friends and family", proved difficult.

Were agents helpful to the first-timers? "We were worried because prices were rising and, despite being specific about our requirements, agents tried to get us to look at horrendous basements without gardens or flats, five stores up, which would be impossible with a baby and a huggy," says Sarah.

The couple found that anything decent was "snapped up the same day" and despaired of finding somewhere, until one day Sarah chanced upon a little cottage that was having its sale board erected. Sarah knocked on the door and found the owner was a friend of a friend. Through the agents, Sarah arranged to view and later that day offered the asking price, £75,000, without Kevin even seeing the house. The offer was accepted with a brief query from Kevin: "What if I don't like it?"

got it. "I was a bit nervous about the visit from their agent brought a serious hiccup. Another couple had offered an extra £5,000, which the vendor accepted. And the agent? "He was very embarrassed and said it had never happened before in all his years' experience. He was a genuinely nice man," says Sarah, who decided to match the offer as long as the vendor promised faithfully not to accept further offers. The deal was struck and Sarah and



Good advice for first-timers is 'speak to a lender before you fall in love with somewhere and then realise you can't afford it'

Kevin became property owners earlier this year. Was the process stressful? "We came in and said, thank God. What a complete nightmare."

Sarah and Kevin found the survey part of the procedure relatively painless. Kevin is an architect and trusted his own eyes, and told them what to expect. "We've had a few teetering sales but we take it as our personal mission to steer them through," says Nick with the saintly repose of a man hell-bent on commission.

Richard Turnbull, financial adviser for Patrick Knight, is less zealous but, as well as securing the best

possible mortgage deal for his first-timers, arms them with the facts: "I always make sure they know exactly what they're getting themselves into."

Most first-time buyers take out loans of between 70-90 per cent of the value of the property. Richard finds that most of his current clients have deposits of around 10 per cent and, until recently, faced expensive mortgage indemnity guarantees (MIGs) that protect the lender not the borrower. Earlier this year, several of the big lenders abolished MIGs for borrowers who can raise a 10 per cent deposit which has given a boost to the first-time market.

Richard believes that first-time buyers are more knowledgeable than in previous years, partly because they have greater access to a media that can help them decide

which mortgage is best, although he warns: "A mortgage product is about more than getting a fixed-rate of 3.89 per cent for two years. Look carefully at the fine detail and make sure you can afford it when the rate rises."

Some first-time buyers pay more in rental than the cost of mortgage payments and this was the case for production assistant Julian Meakins, who recently bought a one-bedroom flat in Acton, west London: "I was renting a studio flat in Camden, near work, but my parents kept nagging me to buy somewhere so I did." Julian received a "whopping great deposit" from his parents, which enabled him to buy the £110,000 flat. What's it like? "It needs work and I'm not exactly the DIY type but I am paying less than when I was renting," Julian says.

How is he coping with the restoration of his flat? "I'm not. I plan to employ an architect, if I can afford it," adds Julian. One-bedroom flats in London are plentiful where converted houses make up the bulk of the market. As one agent eulogised: "We pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap."

First-timers may be attracted by the special deals that developers offer on 'starter homes' but bear in mind that, like new cars, new flats tend to cost around 20 per cent more than re-sales. Julian Meakins with his "whopping great deposit" could choose from pretty much anywhere in London, but the financially challenged may have to seek out less popular nooks and crannies that are awaiting discovery.

Nick Harrington has a one-bedroom flat in Streatham on offer at £58,000, but finds that first-timers often miss out the flat stage and go straight for two-bedroom cottages: "They've been renting for years and have saved large deposits," Nick explains.

Gordon Blausten, of Notting Hill agency Bruton, is London's estate agent of the year and offers this advice: "Speak to a bank or broker before you fall in love with somewhere and then realise you can't afford it. It will be difficult to find somewhere similar for less," says Gordon, who sees this scenario regularly, if not often.

And how do you choose your first home? "If it feels right, go for it," Gordon advises, and avoid the painful scenes he frequently witnesses. "First-time buyers often return a month after viewing and ask if the first place they saw is still available." Sadly, it usually isn't.



PENNY JACKSON

## Bonding is essential

There are some very unhappy landlords and tenants in the South Kensington area of London. A couple of months ago, the London letting agents Aron and Lewis disappeared overnight and with them went all their clients' money.

Needless to say, the agents were neither members of Arla (Association of Residential Letting Agents) or the Rics (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), but they did have a good reputation locally.

Jacqueline Ironside of Ironsides, residential lettings specialist, says she was not alone in being astounded at the news. "We heard about it initially from somebody who picked up the keys from their office on a Friday and by Monday they had gone. We have known them for years and they were considered good, successful agents."

"It underlines how important bonding is, as anything can happen from one moment to the next. Even reputation counts for nothing if people's money is not protected." Indeed the Government is being pressed to regulate the lettings market to protect deposits and rent from fraud and mismanagement.

Arla estimates that £1bn of clients' money is in unbonded accounts. For the time being, the South Kensington victims, who could number 200, only know that the owners of Aron and Lewis are no longer in the country.

Owners of new homes who encounter problems during the first two years should get them resolved more quickly under a new conciliation service proposed by the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

At present repairs in this period are the responsibility of the builder, but in too many cases this amounts to botch jobs and foot-dragging. The NHBC guarantee has been criticised recently as owners describe a catalogue of faults with their new properties, many of them starting within months of moving in.

The NHBC is also prepared to step in at an earlier stage in disputes between owners and builders, to put more pressure on builders to respond quickly to complaints and to monitor the repairs more closely. As part of its current review it has highlighted an unacceptable level of finishing defects at handover; builders who are slow to respond to complaints and some builders failing to repair defects properly.

## If you want the perfect house, build it yourself

Take one large plot, the Internet, and two willing couples, and what do you get? Satisfied homeowners, as Mary Wilson discovers

Put together the Internet and a plot of land and you have two happy self-build couples. Peter and Linda Vincent had been hunting for their perfect plot for almost three years, when they discovered a beautiful site for sale near Strete, in Dartmouth. They had decided to build a house designed by Potton, which specialises in timber-frame kits, but this site had planning for two four-bedroom bungalows.

"It was also far too large and too expensive," says Peter, "but we were determined to buy it". Peter and Linda had been living the Midlands, but they wanted to move to South Devon. They had looked at lots of houses, all of which needed work doing to them, and then went to a self-building show in Birmingham.

"We were caught by the bug," says Peter. "I was working as an IT manager, so was used to the Internet and started writing bits and pieces on the Individual Homes Plotfinder forum. We saw the site near Strete and put a note on the forum saying the plot has sea views, good access, is close to services, is there anyone out there who might be interested in joining forces buying the plot?"

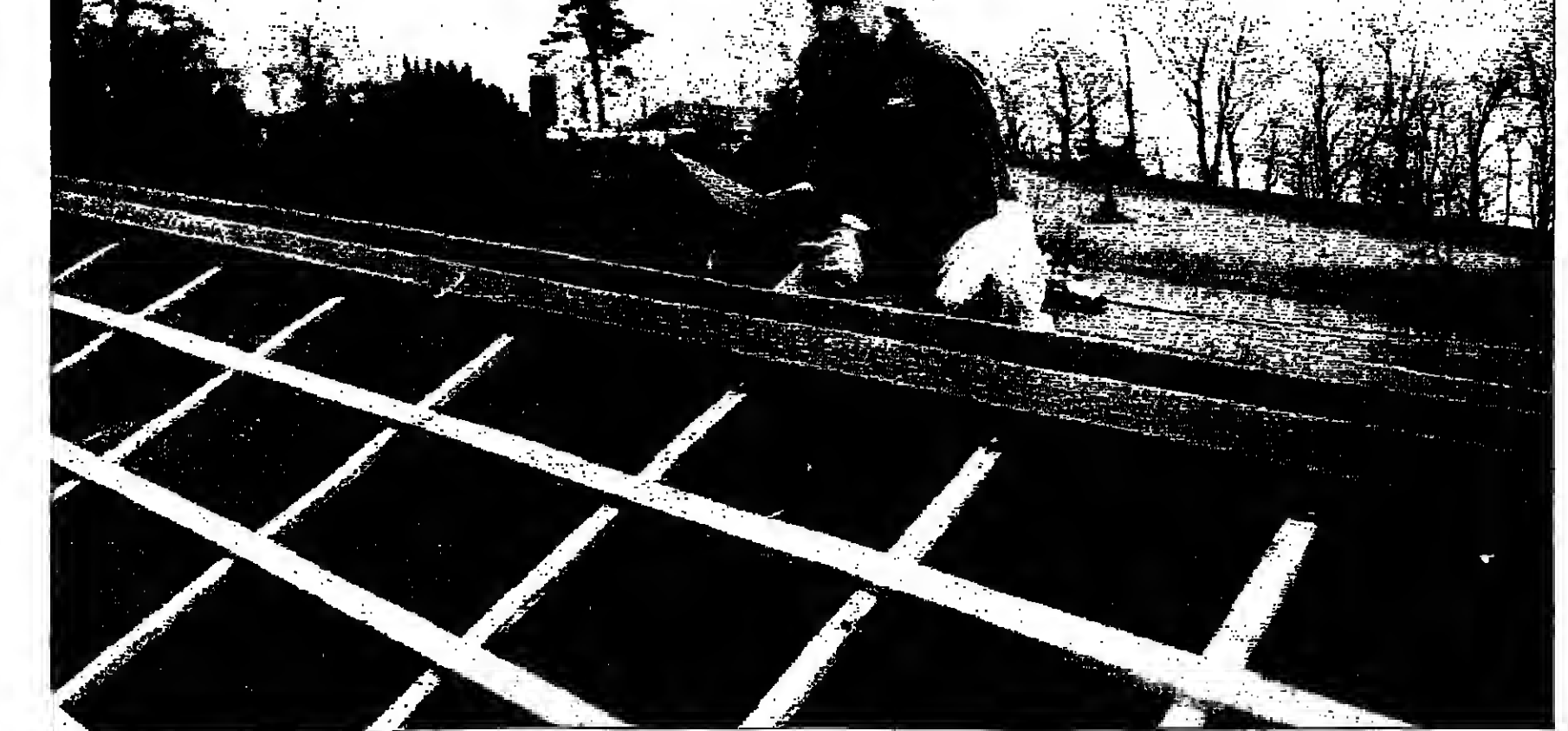
Not long after, they received a phone call from Tony and Isabel Stuart, who wanted to meet up and have a look at the site. They discovered they lived only a few miles away from each other and both had decided to build a Potton home.

Although they both originally wanted to build houses, they had to think about putting up bungalows instead. So Isabel e-mailed Potton for a brochure from one of its subsidiaries, the Bungalow Company. Throughout the project, the couples liaised with each other via the Internet, although they lived close by. They researched the project and dealt with Potton on-line.

"I found the Internet particularly useful when looking for materials as I had decided to do all the wiring and plumbing myself," says Peter Vincent. "The only problems we encountered were building delays, as there was more waste to remove from the site than originally anticipated."

The couple were working full-time while the house was going up, so they ended up doing 16 hours a day. Linda did all the decoration on the inside and out and has also done most of the landscaping, too. "It has been jolly hard work, but we have enjoyed the change of direction. It was a hobby turned into a life-time project, albeit for only six months," says Peter.

But the two couples have not only found themselves the perfect site, via the Internet, they have also saved quite a few thousand pounds by building their homes. The two houses cost around £100,000 each to build including £21,000 each for the plot, and are expected to be worth



£150,000 each when completely finished. The Stuarts moved into their home last November and the Vincents in the New Year.

Self-building is one way to live in the home of your dreams if you are prepared to give time to adequate research before you start and to oversee the project as it progresses. "It is a chance to use your initiative and you can always find a way round problems. We now have a house we would never

have been able to afford in a million years," says Isabel Stuart.

Peter says that he would happily self-build again, but he has learnt one very important lesson. "Although I had no problem borrowing the money from the Bradford & Bingley, I didn't think enough about cash flow," he says. Lenders expect you to put up 20-25 per cent of the cost of the land and then lend money in tranches as the building work progresses.

However, these sums of money are lent in arrears. "So, you mustn't spend your capital up front, which is what I did," says Peter. The timber-frame kit will be the most expensive lump sum required and the company supplying this will want to be paid on the nail. Either you need to have the money for this, arrange credit with the company or organise an overdraft with your bank. Some of the high street banks un-

derstand enough about self-building now to lend money for it and there are a number of building societies which are completely geared up for this sort of project, the Bradford & Bingley and the Norwich and Peterborough being among the two that are currently most helpful.

Potton and The Bungalow Company, 01767 263 300 or e-mail: sales@potton.co.uk.

DIY taken to extremes: building your own house can be 'jolly hard work', but worth the effort

Photograph: Ronnie Burgess



# Wiley window-shopping

Accurate restoration of Victorian or Edwardian glass need not be limiting. Experts can help to dress your windows. By Rosalind Russell

Slingshot damaged period windows to replace them with upvc is now regarded as the ultimate act of vandalism. Especially since the rash of recent home-improvement television shows has apparently shown us the error of our wicked ways.

But finding a craftsman to repair or replace old Victorian or Edwardian glass isn't always that simple - especially if you fancy a more contemporary or unusual design.

According to Mike Slaughter of Creative Glass, which produces windows of every style from ecclesiastical to domestic, "Most people don't know exactly what they want and what can be done. We're only limited by imagination and budget. It helps enormously if we can visit the client's house and get a feel for their idea of style."

The firm, which famously made a Wallace and Gromit pair of glass door panels for the cartoon's creator Nick Parkes,

is - like many glass companies - presently gearing up for Millennium commissions. But they are happy to help clients design less grandiose projects, from restoring a Victorian door panel to producing a surprise birthday gift in glass.

While most estate agents would advise against personalising a property in case it puts off potential future buyers, they'd agree a specially commissioned window is likely to add a quirky value to a house.

"We've done a window for a windsurfer, a balloonist and a breeder of rare sheep," says Mike. "And we've even designed windows featuring a Bugatti and a Morgan. But, I must admit, we groan when someone comes in saying they want a pet immortalised in glass."

New techniques mean stained-glass windows don't have to look as if they should be in a church. Creative Glass can make windows by hot-melting

different glasses together, and by including enamelling. The cost is unlikely to be less than £100. A high door panel can cost anything between £180 and £700, including VAT and depending on intricacy and labour.

Jude Barratt and her husband John work closely with architects and conservation officers when replacing damaged stained glass. Commissions for their firm Sunrise Stained Glass include matching medieval glass panes in a priory in Hertfordshire, repairing heraldic panels and the restoration of the windows at Chichester Cathedral.

"There is a large amount of Victorian and Edwardian houses in our region of Hampshire," says Jude. "After 100 years or so, these windows need re-leading."

"It's usually possible to get a very close match. But we have designed windows for presents for a Ruby wedding and so on. We are asked to do horses and dogs, but we have to be very exact and look for the points of the breed, for the slope of the back and set of the ears. It can be quite tricky."

A more straightforward traditional Victorian or Edwardian panel starts at £35. Even clear glass for a period home can reduce the property's value if it isn't matched properly. Besides, there may be restrictions on putting in mass-produced glass if the house is listed.

The London Crown Glass Company knows all about conservation: they supply hand-blown window glass (mostly imported from France and Germany) and have worked on Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace and with the National Trust.

"If we have a Georgian

house with sash windows, we can match that glass," says Chris Salmood. "We also occasionally supply windows for an extension, or replace glass in an antique bookcase."

Prices for genuine hand-blown glass begin at £129 per square metre, plus VAT and delivery. If the work calls for good-quality period-style glass, but not necessarily the real thing, prices for that start at £53.90 per square metre.

"It doesn't have the little imperfections of hand blown, but

it waves gently because it's bent afterwards. It can even be used in double-glazed units."

The British Society of Master Glass Patrons has more than 500 members who will accept commissions for restoration, repair and new design. It has a website showing studios and portfolios at [proteus.web.com/btmgp](http://proteus.web.com/btmgp)

Creative Glass, 0117-973 7025; Sunrise Stained Glass, 01705 750512; London Crown Glass Co, 01491 413227.



## THREE TO VIEW: SECOND HOMES

Dawn Cottage in Pillerton Priors, six miles from Stratford-upon-Avon and six miles from the M40, is perfectly placed for a quick Friday night getaway. On the edge of open countryside, the two-bedroom cottage has a small manageable garden with an apple tree, garage and workshop. The study/dining room has a beamed ceiling and the sitting room has an open fireplace with a cast iron range. There's a Roman style hand-painted unit in the kitchen along with wall cupboards and a walk-in larder. £95,000 through GA Town & Country (01789 269276).



Orchard Cottage in Child Okeford, Dorset has a date stone inscribed 1847, but the house may be much older. The white painted, three-bedroom cottage has an inglenook fireplace in the sitting room and a garden room/conservatory. A period outbuilding could, with planning permission, convert to a studio or office if working from home. The gardens of a third of an acre include terrace and lawn, with flower borders, a kitchen garden and an old orchard. £169,000 through Humberts (01258 452343).



Two Seaview Terrace in Churchtown is just a mile from the popular Mullion Cove in Cornwall. Renovated four years ago, the three-bedroom cottage is centrally heated and has a 75ft garden. The kitchen is modern with plenty of cupboards, there is a sitting room with fireplace, a dining room and a conservatory. All for £57,000 through Miller & Son (01326 572434).



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